



# Jordan Times

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## Israel outstrips U.S. arms aid by \$500m

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel went beyond its \$1.8 billion in U.S. military aid by 27 per cent through arms purchases in the United States, leading to a freeze on future deals with American firms, newspapers reported Tuesday. Chief of Staff Ehud Barak has appointed a special committee to investigate how Israel topped its 1991 American military aid by \$500 million, the daily Al Hamishmar said. The committee, which has close contacts with the army and defence ministry, quoted senior military officials for the report. The independent daily Hadashot said the defence ministry in the past weeks has ordered its representatives in the United States to freeze all commitments with American suppliers until 1992. The newspaper added that exceptions would be made for specific orders of up to \$200,000. Security sources confirmed there were problems with over spending. One official said there was "an over-run" in the present budget which would be made up for next year. A source close to the army said the defence ministry had "simply bought more than it had money for." The over spending was reportedly due to purchases in the United States in the past year including emergency acquisitions during the Gulf war.

## Soviet Union allows Western TV to film Lenin

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union allowed Western photographers and television crews inside the Lenin mausoleum on Tuesday, breaking with a quasi-religious taboo which for decades surrounded the mummified body of the Soviet state's founder. Photographers and cameramen from organisations including Reuters and Visnews were allowed in for 15 minutes to take pictures inside the vault where Lenin's body is displayed. They also saw the complex control room where the air temperature and humidity in the vault are constantly monitored. Photographers and cameramen from Pravda newspaper were allowed inside at the end of October. The German magazine Der Spiegel bought the Western rights to their film. Lenin, who died in 1924 after a series of massive strokes, was first buried in a simple wooden mausoleum on Red Square outside the Kremlin. The present red marble mausoleum was built later in the 1920s by Stalin, whose body rested next to Lenin's from 1953 to 1961. Suggestions that Lenin's body should be removed have multiplied since the failed August coup, while orthodox communists have demonstrated to demand that he should be left alone.

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## Crown Prince leaves for London

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday left for London on a short visit to the United Kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Taher Masi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and senior Royal Court officials.

## Lebanon seizes polluted gasoline

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese government on Tuesday seized the Cyprus-flag oil tanker Athenes Olympic with a shipment of highly polluted imported gasoline, an official statement said. The statement issued by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce said passports of the tanker's 27 crew members were confiscated pending completion of investigation. The vessel, carrying 20,000 tonnes of gasoline from Yugoslavia, docked at Beirut port Oct. 31. It unloaded 5,000 tonnes over the next few days and these were distributed to filling stations. The unloading stopped on Nov. 8 due to bad weather, and in the meantime, motorists purchasing the gasoline began complaining of strange odors that were leaving them dizzy, nauseated and suffering from severe headaches. The Ministry of Industry and Petroleum intervened, sending experts to the filling stations and to the ship to examine the gasoline. They found the shipment contained too much of a sulfurous gas that is considered a major air pollutant.

## 'Iraq had Scuds loaded with chemicals'

VIENNA (AP) — Iraq had missiles loaded with chemical weapons during the Gulf war that could have been used, an Austrian defence expert said Tuesday. However, primitive technology used to modify the Soviet-made Scud missiles made it doubtful they could have delivered the deadly nerve gas and other chemicals, Matthias Haydn said. Lieutenant Haydn was one of three Austrian decontamination experts who visited Iraq on two U.N. inspection tours during the late summer and again for three weeks ending Nov. 5.

## Iranian envoy holds talks in UAE

DUBAI (R) — An Iranian envoy met the foreign and defence ministers of the United Arab Emirates Tuesday for regional political and security talks, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. Ali Mohammad Besharati discussed with Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi and Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum how to "employ the existing cooperation in boosting regional peace and security." WAM quoted Mr. Besharati as saying relations between the two Gulf countries would expand further in the future. The Iranian envoy is on a tour of the Gulf Arab states, which warmed towards Tehran after it took a neutral stand when U.S.-led allied troops evicted Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf war that ended in February.

## Athens suggests nuclear material supply to Mideast

ATHENS (AP) — The government Tuesday said it spent two months following a man possibly involved in the shipment to the Middle East of material that can be used to build hydrogen bombs. "The information was received from reliable sources on Sept. 9 and the physical surveillance began," government spokesman Vyras Polydoros said. The case against the suspect, an unidentified Hungarian said to be trafficking in "red mercury," came to light last Friday after police detained three National Intelligence Agency agents outside the offices of a politician who was recently dismissed from the cabinet. The arrests became a political issue after opposition parties charged that the conservative New Democracy government was using the intelligence agency to spy on its party members, an accusation the administration denied.

# Syria toughens stand after Knesset votes no negotiations on Golan

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of racism Tuesday and accused Israel of trying to subvert the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

The ruling Baath Party daily Al Baath denounced the Israeli parliament (Knesset) for passing a draft resolution placing the occupied Golan Heights off-limits for negotiations.

"Although the world no longer needs more proof on Israel's rejection of peace, it provides every day new evidence on its position aimed at destroying the whole peace process," it said.

"This is exactly what it did yesterday when the Knesset voted in favour of a new resolution confirming adherence to the occupied Golan."

Syria and Israel held direct talks in Madrid Nov. 3 after the opening of the Arab-Israeli peace conference but the meeting ended with Damascus calling for withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and Israel rejecting the demand.

The Israeli parliament adopted a draft resolution Monday confirming continued Israeli occupation of the Golan and urging the building of more settlements on the strategic plateau which was seized in the 1967 war.

Al Baath described the vote as an attempt to block the next stage of bilateral talks.

"The enemy's failure to block the first stage of talks led it to escalate attempts to block the second stage which would discuss the implementation of international resolutions," it said.

"These (U.N.) resolutions reject the possession of land by military aggression and point clearly to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

President Hafez Al Assad accused Israel Monday of trying to obstruct the peace talks by avoiding U.N. resolutions and refusing to talk about territorial concessions.

The Arabs, on the other hand, were working "sincerely and in good faith" to make a success of the peace process launched in Madrid last month, Mr. Assad was quoted as telling a group of Syrian expatriates from the United States.

A Syrian official said Mr. Assad told the meeting: "His (Mr. Shamir's) speech and remarks did not include any reference to U.N. resolutions upon which the conference was held. Land for peace was not mentioned either."

"Instead he (Mr. Shamir) insisted the occupied Arab territories were Israeli territory."

The government also signalled its reluctance to accept Washing-

ton as a compromise site for further talks expected to begin within the next 10 days.

An official noted that Syria is still regarded by the United States as a sponsor of "terrorism," and also that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members are denied American visas.

In its strongest statement since the first session adjourned last week in Madrid, Damascus Radio said Israeli provocations appeared aimed against the peace process.

The commentary responded to a statement by Mr. Shamir on Monday that Israel was unwilling to yield occupied territory "because Israel's measurements are too small."

Also Monday, the Israeli parliament voted to oppose negotiations on the future of the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967. The parliament also called for more Jewish settlement there.

Damascus Radio described the actions as "part of the continuous Israeli provocations aimed at the peace efforts of the U.S. administration."

It suggested that Mr. Shamir, who made his remark to visiting South African President F.W. de Klerk, should learn from South Africa's decision to dismantle

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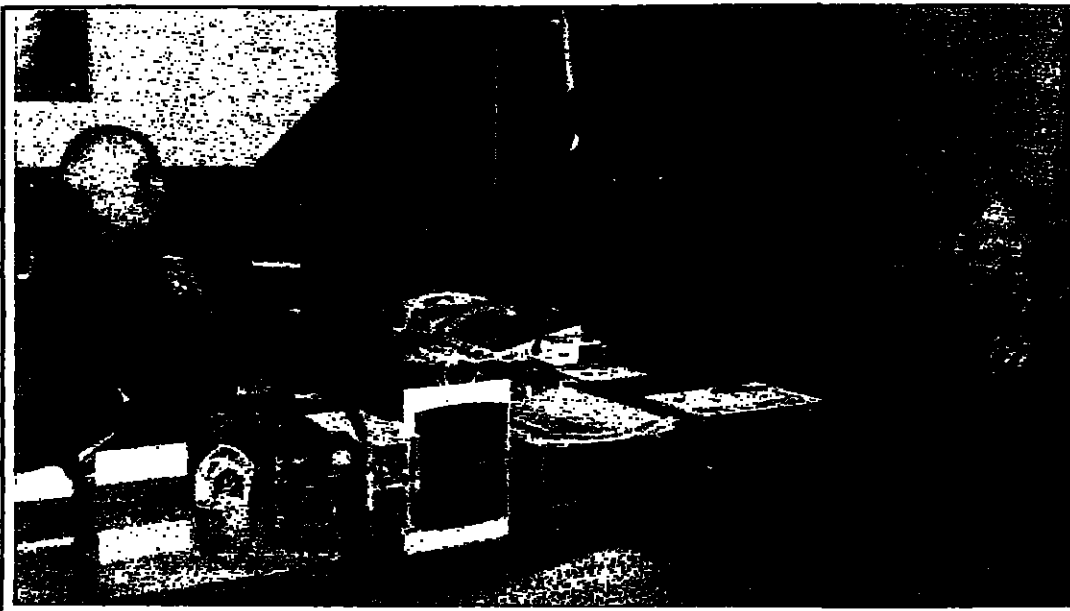
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**KING VISITS GHQ:** His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid a visit to the Armed Forces Headquarters, where he was received by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants and the Armed Forces inspector general. The King met for a while with Field Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed with him

issues of interest to the Armed Forces. Part of the meeting was attended by the assistants to Field Marshal Abu Taleb, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Armed Forces inspector general. The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Muhammad, the King's military secretary (Petra photo)

## U.S. plans second major Mideast talks within weeks

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is planning a second major Middle East peace gathering within the next three weeks to be opened by Secretary of State James Baker and attended by Arab, Israeli and other foreign ministers, officials said Tuesday.

The conference, tentatively planned to take place somewhere in Europe in early December, would deal with Middle East regional issues such as arms control, sharing water resources, trades, the environment and refugees.

That would open up a second and separate line of talks from the main peace talks begun in Madrid Oct. 30-Nov. 3. Although a regional conference has always been in prospect as a complement to the central talks, the plan emerging shapes up as much grander in scale than originally foreseen.

"The idea is that these talks can play a very important role in facilitating the main negotiations," said one administration official who asked not to be identified.

"Baker would if possible make it a big event, a significant event that once again gives a sense of momentum and the breaking of taboos while creating an international environment of support for the peace process," he said.

The talks would probably extend over years since it will be difficult to deal seriously with many of the problems until real peace begins to be established in the Middle East.

But Mr. Baker wants to give them real momentum at the outset to demonstrate that the United States is already thinking ahead into a post-crisis era, the official said.

Syria says it will not attend such talks and has urged other Arabs to stay away until Israel

begins withdrawing from occupied territories.

The regional gathering will be much bigger in terms of participants than the Madrid peace conference.

European countries and others like Japan and Canada are being encouraged to attend to discuss ways they could help the Middle East make the transformation from war to peace.

The six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Arab states outside the front-line Arab-Israeli confrontation — have promised to attend as have the Maghreb states of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria and other regional powers like Turkey.

By the time the regional conference convenes, officials and diplomats expect that three sets of bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Israel and Lebanon and Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation also will have resumed.

These represent the forum where actual peace agreement to end the Arab-Israeli conflict are to be discussed. The parties held opening sessions in Madrid immediately after the peace conference but are still divided over where to resume.

Israel is also upset that it has not yet been shown the text of the letters of assurances that the United States gave Arab states and the Palestinians before the Madrid conference.

Mr. Baker had pledged that all participants would be made aware of U.S. commitments to other parties. But Israeli sources said that when they asked for the U.S. letter to Syria, U.S. officials said the time was not ripe for disclosure.

Mr. Baker, who is spending the week in Asia, is expected to resume intense Middle East activity upon return to Washington.



**Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb promoted as Field Marshal**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday promoted Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb to the rank of Field Marshal, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Field Marshal Abu Taleb, 57, would join just two other former military officials to achieve the highest rank in the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Another Royal Decree promoted Director General of the General Intelligence Department Major General Mustafa Qaisi to lieutenant general.

Field Marshal Abu Taleb, a native of Salt, now shares the rank of field marshal with Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Habbes Majali, Jordan's first Armed Forces commander-in-chief.

He is a graduate of the Royal Military College in Jordan, but he attended several military courses at British and American colleges.

## Palestinians seek broad control of territory

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian negotiators say they want broad control over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with only a restricted Israeli military presence during a five-year period ending in full independence.

"Israel will retain its military occupation in the form of military presence in specific military and strategic areas," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a strategist on the Palestinian peace negotiating team.

"But we must have control of the land, including crossing points (from Jordan and Egypt)," he said.

Palestinian negotiators, back from Middle East peace talks in Madrid, say Palestinian control of land and legislation during the five-year interim period is at the heart of their negotiating strategy.

Their position contrasts with the limited self-rule offer from hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who says he does not intend to withdraw from any land.

Although a venue has not been agreed for direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, talks are expected to start during the next month.

"We are working on... steps that would ensure the smooth running of this process, creating the conditions that would lead to transitional arrangements that would support the creation of independent Palestinian institutions and a Palestinian infrastructure," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating team.

During eight months of diplomacy, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker coaxed Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a two-stage settlement, starting with five years of local self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Baker proposals, based on U.N. resolutions calling for exchanging occupied Arab land for peace for Israel, call for negotiating the final status of the occupied territories at the start of the third year.

Western diplomats say Washington's proposals provide the best chance for progress towards peace because they delay talks on Israel's withdrawal for three years, shielding 76-year-old Shamir from personally making territorial concessions.

Palestinians, who for 24 years watched helplessly as Israel took more than half of West Bank and Gaza Strip land and installed some 122,000 settlers, want to freeze Jewish settlement.

Negotiators say only by controlling the land can they ensure self-rule develop into full independence.

(Continued on page 5)

## Kurdish forces step back from northern Iraqi town

ERBIL (R) — Kurdish guerrillas have pulled back their lines south of Erbil, creating a five-kilometre buffer strip between themselves and the Iraqi army.

Kurdish envoys who returned from Baghdad said Monday they believed that Iraqi forces did not intend to move into Erbil, which has a population of 800,000.

They said Baghdad had offered to lift an economic blockade of Kurdistan if armed guerrillas withdrew from the cities of northern Iraq.

Artillery fire was heard in the area Monday and some clashes reported but there was no sign of a major Iraqi push on Erbil, which is 80 kilometres east of the government-controlled city of Mosul.

Guerrilla positions south of the city are on flat farmland. If the Iraqi army launched a tank offensive the Kurds would have little chance of stopping them before the outskirts.

The army crushed a Kurdish rebellion after the Gulf war. Millions of Kurds fled to Turkey and Iran. But Western pressure has prevented Baghdad from exerting

control in a large area of the north.

The Kurdish pullback south of Erbil began after dark on Sunday evening and occurred along three major highways where thousands of Peshmerga guerrillas and Iraqi troops are facing one another.

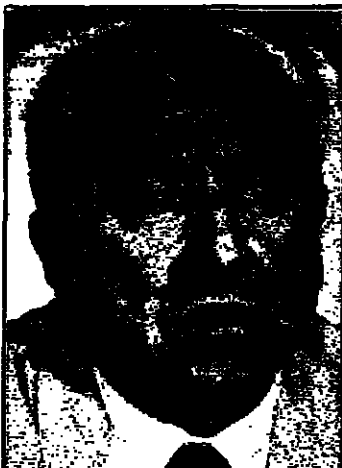
"We withdrew to prove that we are not the aggressor," said Abdullah Rasud, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) commander of guerrilla forces in the Erbil area.

"This is a demonstration that we are defenders only," he added.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani and backed by a sizeable guerrilla army, is supplying most of the Kurdish forces in the lines south of Erbil.

The commander of the PUK's 10th army, known to his men as "Rebaz," told Reuters the government had proposed creating a five kilometre strip between the opposing forces and that the PUK agreed.

"Rebaz," whose troops held their ground in fighting at Fir Daoud the previous day, seemed uneasy about the move.



**Nayef Hawatmeh**

## Peace train should be put back on track — Hawatmeh

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "peace train" that just left the Madrid station should be put on the right track if it is to reach the "proper destination" where Palestinian national rights are met according to international legitimacy, a senior leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Tuesday.

The leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Nayef Hawatmeh, said that it was not too late to reformulate the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace process to include Palestinian representation from the diaspora and from Arab Jerusalem.

Mr. Hawatmeh told the Jordan Times in an interview that there should be Palestinian unity, Palestinian-Jordanian and Arab coordination to link the issue of halting Jewish settlements in the occupied territories to suspending the negotiations until the Israelis stopped building settlements.

The official also called on efforts to insist that the agenda of the next Palestinian-Israeli bilateral negotiations be amended to include Security Council resolutions that call on Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, rather than to negotiate the proposed self-government to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Hawatmeh, who met with

(Continued on page 5)

# JANDA to stay out of cabinet, but will back Masri in Parliament

By Lannis K. Andoni

AMMAN — The Jordan Arab National Democratic alliance (JANDA), the broadest coalition of leftists, liberals, pan-Arab nationalists and professional unions in Jordan will not take part in the new coalition cabinet led by Prime Minister Taher Masi, but was expected to leave the door open for its members to join the cabinet, according to JANDA sources.

JANDA, they said, is expected to keep the door open for its members to join or boycott a new reshuffled cabinet after its failure so far to reach a consensus.

While the main groups constituting JANDA will most likely stay away from the cabinet, Mr. Masi might be able to recruit independent members.

Mr. Masi, according to well-informed sources, however, prefers the partici-

cipation of JANDA as a representative of organised groups rather than individual members who do not represent grass-root organisations.

The alliance is also expected to leave the question of parliamentary confidence up to the individual decisions of its nine deputies if the group failed on reaching a consensus prior to the convening of Parliament next month.

JANDA's position reflects dissatisfaction with the cabinet's performance combined with fear that any government failure will strengthen forces and trends that oppose wider political freedoms in the country.

Peace talks with Israel, a widely perceived lack of progress towards democratisation and recent economic austerity measures are the main factors that threaten to put an end for the alliance that brought together the coalition cabinet of Mr. Masi

last June.

For the first time since 1957 a prime minister, in this case Mr. Masi, was able to win the support and involvement of the representatives of the left, pan-Arab nationalists, liberals and the strong professional unions.

JANDA's support was crucial to counter-balance the Muslim Brotherhood that was excluded from the government and vehemently opposed any peace talks with Israel.

In Parliament, where Mr. Masi is expected to face his real test when the legislative council resumes sessions next month, JANDA, represented by nine seats, is no competition to the strong Muslim Brotherhood that controls 22 of the 80 seat chamber of deputies.

Mr. Masi, however, has been concerned, according to sources close to him, to maintain the support of groups with grass-root following,

especially if he was discounting the Brotherhood's backing.

But this week the majority in JANDA decided that there was no use in continuing on taking part in the cabinet. Yet its leaders who met Monday night avoided taking a final binding decision.

Although the majority of the trends in JANDA is against taking part in any cabinet reshuffle, differences over the peace process within the coalition itself and concern that the failure of Mr. Masi to form a government could lead to a setback to the democratisation process have prevented a consensus at the Monday meeting.

JANDA, according to some of its officials, has opted for not being part in the government but will try to support Mr. Masi's cabinet from collapsing.

Earlier Monday, JANDA's

(Continued on page 5)







## Youth conference to address region's problems

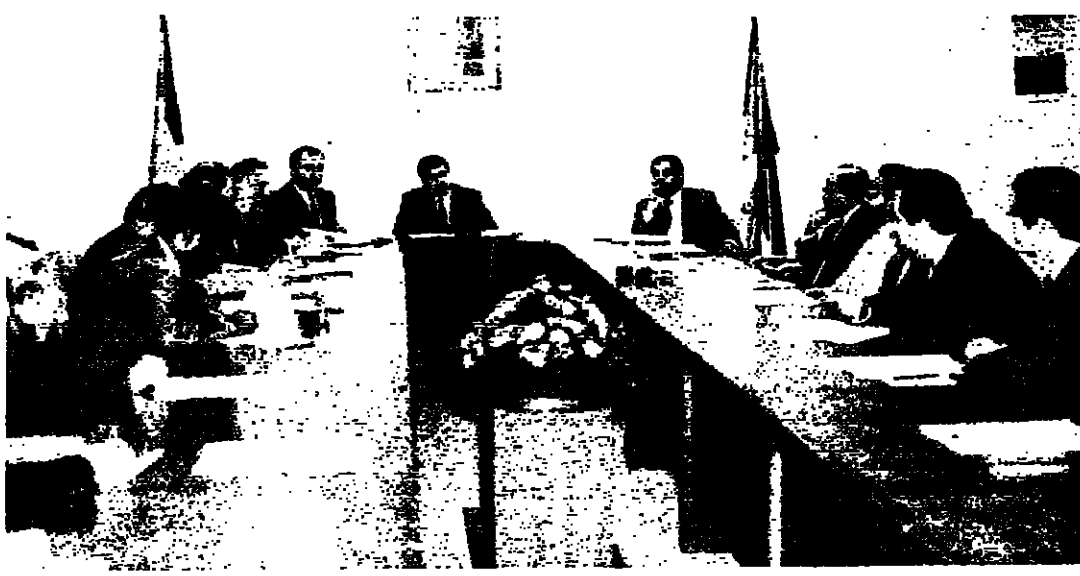
AMMAN (Petra) — An international youth conference will be held at the International Baccalaureate school on Nov. 24 with some 130 youths attending.

Mohammad Ulayyan, head of the preparatory committee for the conference, who is also president of the Students Council at the school, said the conference will discuss a number of subjects on the history of Jordan and the Middle East. It will also address the role of international organisations in dealing with local issues such as problems of the environment, water shortages and the difficulties encountered by Jordan and other Middle East countries.

He added that conferees will exchange ideas on means of solving problems facing the youth, and forging closer cooperation among world youth to contribute towards ensuring a better future for the coming generations.

The conference aims, among other things, at orienting the youth on Jordan, its economic and political life, its history and role in the region as well as its tourist attractions.

Taking part in the six-day conference are 130 youths from Jordan, Syria, Bahrain, Germany, India, Kenya, America, Tanzania, Belgium, Greece, Malaysia, Singapore and Pakistan.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday discusses with Arab cultural attaches

ways of addressing the problems of non-Jordanian Arab students

## University official discusses problems of non-Jordanian students

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday exchanged views with a number of Arab cultural attaches and advisors accredited to Jordan on means of overcoming difficulties facing the 1,548 Arab students who are attending the university.

Dr. Gharaibeh voiced the university's wish to provide all the necessary facilities and to help these students overcome any problems they may face. He also stressed the need for continuing coordination and cooperation between the Arab cultural attaches and the university, adding that the university welcomes coordination with them in areas of

interest to students such as registration issues and reports on students' performance.

He called on the attaches and advisors to periodically meet with the students of their respective countries who are attending classes here to define their problems in preparation for discussing them with the university.

The meeting was attended by the University Vice-President for Administrative Affairs Sulaiman Arabiyat, Dean of the Student Affairs Department Mohammad Khreizat and Director of the Admission and Registration Department Abdul Hamid Al Sabagh.

Later, the attaches visited the university library and the student activities compound where they were briefed on the various services provided to students at the university.

Also Tuesday, the university vice president for scientific faculties affairs, Mohammad Al Maqousi, received the scientific attaché at the Italian Foreign Ministry Michele Miele and Giovanni Benenati from the Italian embassy's cultural department.

Discussions during the meeting focussed on means of enhancing scopes of scientific cooperation between the university and the Italian universities.

## Royal Jordanian considering new routes to Berlin, Jakarta

By Nidal M. Ibrahim

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), which recently reopened its route to Beirut and inaugurated new ones to Colombo and Toronto, is conducting market feasibility studies on possible routes to Berlin and Jakarta, Indonesia, according to an official with the national air carrier.

Hussein Dabbas, assistant vice president for marketing, stressed that the decision of whether to open the new routes will be based strictly on the findings of market studies. Still, Royal Jordanian officials see the cautious, well-planned expansion that has characterised the opening of the new routes to be necessary to maintain RJ's market share.

"The nature of airlines is growth," Mr. Dabbas said. "Unless you grow, you start dying. It's a dynamic industry that requires continued

growth."

The new routes to Colombo and Toronto were opened only after extensive market studies to determine how many passengers would be interested in the new routes and the potential growth in those markets, Mr. Dabbas said. The careful planning has paid off as both routes are performing according to expectations, he said.

"The routes we have started are doing very well," Mr. Dabbas said. "Especially the route to Colombo."

While it is still early to determine the success of the recently-inaugurated route to Toronto, he said that bookings were "excellent."

Jakarta and Berlin have drawn RJ officials' interest for different reasons, but both promise to allow Royal Jordanian to penetrate new surrounding markets.

The reinvigoration of Germany, coupled with the decision to seat the new govern-

ment in Berlin, has impressed upon RJ management the potential of that route, Mr. Dabbas said. "Very soon it will be one of the most important cities in Europe," he said.

Jakarta, he said, is attractive because Indonesia is a major country with a huge Muslim population. At the same time, he added, Royal Jordanian flights to south east Asia are limited, restricting its drawing power in that market. "So it's definitely a very viable market to operate in," he said.

The slow pace of expansion being undertaken by Royal Jordanian is partly a result of its recent financial troubles. Plagued by losses from the Gulf war and the resulting high insurance premiums and fuel prices, RJ officials estimated losses to be near \$100 million.

The airline is just now returning to normal and the introduction of new routes is an outgrowth from this normalisation process, officials recently said.

## Mohammad's Army prosecutor calls for stiff penalties

By Ahmad Kreishan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The public prosecutor at the State Security Court in Marka Tuesday demanded that the court impose penalties in accordance with the provisions of the law on 18 members of a group calling itself "Mohammad's Army," who are accused of carrying out a series of terrorist activities and planning others in Jordan.

Addressing the court, the public prosecutor also demanded that the court order the confiscation of all the accused men's property, cars and weapons found and used by them in their attacks and sabotage activities.

The prosecutor, Major Muhammad Hijazi, said the defendants had been charged with trying to change the country's constitution through illegitimate means, possession of explosives, hand grenades, and automatic weapons they had been using or planning to use in terrorist activities, attempting to kill several citizens by planting bombs under their cars and raising money in an illegal manner to finance their operations.

The prosecutor cited the testimonies of several witnesses supporting these charges and the confession of the defendants themselves to committing such actions.

He said that police officer, Issa Al Naji's testimony had agreed with the statement of the first defendant, Foad Danesh, and the fourth defendant, Mustafa, who had told the court that they had planted explosives under the witness' car last July.

The prosecutor also cited testimony by witness Nancy Haddad who had told the court that last January she suffered severe injuries in a car bomb blast in front of her home at the Gandawel neighbourhood near Wadi Seer. He said the first, second and third defendants had admitted that they had planted the explosives under the Haddad family car which later went off.

In November of last year, a liquor store at Yarmouk Street of Amman was attacked by automatic fire causing the loss of most of the store's contents, according to the witness and store owner Walid Lutfi.

The liquor store episode was corroborated by the testimonies given by the second, fifth, sixth and eighth defendants.

Another witness, Khalil Asim-eer Ali, owner of the Jordan Blue-Up Club and Restaurant at Biad-eer Wadi Seer, told the court that someone had poured gasoline into the restaurant and set the place on fire. This was identical to a statement of the first witness, Foad Danesh, the court prosecutor said.

The court judge, Yousef Faouri, adjourned the session until next Monday.

## 300 workers threatened with loss of jobs because of consumer tax

By Elias Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
and agency dispatches

AMMAN — The consumer tax imposed on Jordanian factories producing national products took its first toll Tuesday when at least 300 workers employed in the food industries were either laid off or warned that their dismissal was imminent.

The affected workers gathered in front of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Union (FJLU) Tuesday in protest against their dismissal or imminent lay-off, calling on the federation to intervene on their behalf and ensure their rights.

According to the protesters, the measures for further layoffs were being discussed and factory owners attributed the measure to the newly-imposed consumer tax, which was considered a severe blow to local industries.

Federation Secretary General Abdul Halim Khaddam said that his office was not informed of any dismissals.

"We think the workers were



Abdul Halim Khaddam

told by the factory owners that they would be dismissed so that they would create a situation through which they can exercise pressure on the government to force it to rescind its measure concerning the imposition of the consumer tax," he said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

"Even if workers get dismissed, or if the factories are closed temporarily by their owners in their show of protest against or in support of their stand over the consumer tax issue, the federation would insist that workers get paid in

full," said Mr. Khaddam.

He said that the federation council has decided not to interfere in the dispute which concerns the industrial businesses and the government alone.

Meanwhile, Jordanian columnists on Tuesday attacked government austerity measures raising import duties and the price of bread.

Some officials fear Jordan could face popular unrest because of lower living standards, increasing poverty and rising unemployment — estimated at one-third of the work force.

The Kingdom, acting under IMF directives, is trying to slash its \$8 billion foreign debt and revive its aid-dependent economy.

The government announced on Sunday that bread, the main diet of Jordan's poor, will be added to the list of commodities subsidised only for those with ration cards.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abdul Ragheb said the measure would save about JD 5 million a year. The move was immediately

attacked by local newspapers and some parliament deputies.

"By the end of the year if the government continued on the same track there will be dozens of coupons in the pocket of each citizen but his other pocket will be empty of money," said a Sawt Al Shaab columnist.

On November 4, the government raised taxes on imported luxury items such as cosmetics and alcohol, while cutting customs duties by 10 per cent on 205 basic imported items such as shoes and school books.

Jordan's Finance Minister and Central Bank governor have refused to comment on the austerity measures included in the International Monetary Fund agreement drafted in October.

Jordan's 1991 spending on subsidies will be about JD 60 million — mostly for bread, but also rice, sugar, milk and animal fodder.

Next year's still unpublished budget is expected to allocate JD 40 million for food subsidies.

## Desert safari participants near destination

MAAN (J.T.) — Wednesday will be the last day of a week-long car race involving Spanish and Arab competitors heading for Aqaba from Amman following desert routes spotted by desert castles and other archaeological sites.

The participants, together with a group of journalists and camera crews following the race, arrived in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and were scheduled to continue the safari to Wadi Rum before reaching the port city Thursday.

The participants have already visited the Dead Sea, the Zarga Ma'in spa south of Madaba and the southern city of Karak on their way to Aqaba, according to a statement by the organisers, the Spanish magazine El Sol and the Ministry of Tourism.

The 68-member group is making the trip as part of the Ministry of Tourism's drive to market Jordan abroad, the organisers said.

The car race, part of the Kingdom's celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday Thursday, was filmed and telecast to Spanish viewers in Spain together with the various archaeological and tourist sites the competitors were passing by during the race.

Members of the group interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, expressed their deep impression with Jordan's archaeological treasures, its hospitable people and the wonderful weather. They said that they had been enjoying the visits to different areas in the Kingdom.

The rally was organised through the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism working in conjunction with the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) and tour operators from Jordan and Spain.

The Spanish El Sol magazine had organised a similar race in Morocco last year.

## Programme to involve schools in community

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), is embarking on a \$41,000 pilot project aimed at enhancing the role of schools in development of human resources, according to Director General of Education at the ministry Thougay Obaidat.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Obaidat said 30 schools will be used for the purpose of the project. He noted that the ministry will prepare a practical training manual and will direct headmasters of the schools involved to play an active role in promoting the project.

## Criticism of government plans to impose consumer tax grows

By Ziyad Al Shileh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The consumer tax imposed on local industries will have very negative consequences on the national economy because it will open the way for imported products to compete with national goods, according to Jordan Businessmen Association (JBA) President Mandouh Abu Hassan.

The consumer tax will also lead to the loss of hundreds of millions of dinars from the country to be invested in more profitable areas, a move which would deal a very hard blow to industrial development and worsen the unemployment problem facing Jordan, according to Mr. Abu Hassan.

His statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i dailies coincided Tuesday with the publication of a one page notice in the local press by the Amman Chamber of Industry attacking the government's decision to impose the consumer tax as detrimental to Jordanian industry.

Consumer tax is to be exacted from the consumer upon his buying any national product manufactured in the country and not from the industrial businesses themselves, said Mr. Abu Hassan. The process was bound to bring heavy losses to the national industry as people would buy more imported products which will sell at similar prices, he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the imposition of the consumer tax was like transforming Jordan into a socialist economic system which has already been abandoned by the socialist countries themselves.

The government had acted unilaterally without consulting the business community and without taking into account the views of others, he said. Such a policy is not logical and can never serve the economic policies which the government is trying to apply, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

He added that the government should have opted for democratic means like holding consultations and conducting studies before making appropriate decisions that would serve national interests.

Mr. Abu Hassan wondered if the government had first consulted with its Economic Advisory Council before embarking on this step which, the government said, was necessitated by the requirements of the economic restructuring programme as advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Abu Hassan said by imposing a consumer tax on local products and reducing customs duty on imported commodities, the government has dealt a severe blow to local industries.

He called on the government to re-examine its position and consult with local economists before embarking on such measures while at the same time listening to advice from the IMF.

If the local industries sustain losses, more people will be laid off, aggravating the already serious unemployment

crisis in Jordan, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

At a meeting with the minister of industry, trade and supply Monday, members and the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry aired their grievances and echoed Mr. Abu Hassan's apprehensions and complaints.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abdul Ragheb told the meeting that the government was forced to take the step to reduce the deficit in the fiscal budget by nearly JD 80 million.

Despite the assurances that the government would re-examine the situation and consult with the industrialists, the Amman chamber of industry published a statement in the local press Tuesday expressing their total objection to the consumer tax which, it said, came at a time when the Kingdom was facing a series of economic ills in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The Chamber of Industry presented a 12 point argument saying there would be severe damage to the national economy if the consumer tax is imposed.

The statement urged the government to freeze the decision, to set up a joint committee from the chamber and the concerned government offices to scrutinise the situation and to work out a formula that would take into account sufficient revenues for the treasury but would not impede the development in the country or act to increase the burden on local citizens.

the Mediterranean in France where the climate is similar to that of Petra," said Mr. Deletie.

"In a few months," he added, "the results will come out and then we can find a treatment for the rock."

Because the rocks in Petra are ancient, it is necessary to find out the exact speed of the rock erosion, so that the team can apply a treatment that complements the evolution.

There is a rock very similar to that of Petra in the north east of France, he said. "We have studied this rock during a period of one year and I think we can use the results of the sand stone on the treatment of the Petra rocks," Mr. Deletie said.

The treatment will be local and can take about a few hours to take effect, according to Mr. Deletie. "We will begin the treatment of the rocks on the samples we took and then apply it to specific areas in Petra."

## French team winds up study on how to preserve Petra rocks

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-member French scientific team has wound up a two-week study in Jordan and left for home to embark on laboratory tests and further studies designed to determine the harmful elements affecting the rocks of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra.

The French scientists are carrying with them samples of the rock dug up through their work at the ancient site.

"In the King's Tomb we have found a variety of rocks and different minerals," said team leader Pierre Deletie in a statement to the Jordan Times.

The team from the French National Electricity Company had conducted preliminary tests at the rocks in and around the King's Tomb in the ancient city with the aim of determining the causes behind the corrosion of rocks.

"We found minerals like sulphate, gipsom, quartz and ox-

ides in and around the tomb," said Mr. Deletie.

The technical team took samples at different levels of the tomb.

"We chose this tomb to conduct the study because it represents all types of mineralogical evolutions in Petra," Mr. Deletie said.

The team, which will head to France, will take the samples to carry out laboratory tests in a bid to determine the best means for protecting the ancient city and providing maintenance and restoration to the various archaeological sites.

"We will be able to see the importance of water (on the rocks), the distance of the rock and the walls and compare the findings with other studies," Mr. Deletie said. The biggest problem the team has found, in terms of alteration, is the speed at which the rock erodes. "We have studied this problem in sights all around

the Mediterranean in France where the climate is similar to that of Petra," said Mr. Deletie.

"In a few months," he added, "the results will come out and then we can find a treatment for the rock."

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## English charity rushing aid to dying Iraqi children

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Unless substantial (medical and food) supplies are found and sanctions eased, hundreds of thousands more frail, sick and young people (in Iraq) will die needlessly before the end of winter."

These words of warning come from an English pharmacist, now in Amman, who will soon be making her second visit to Iraq since September when she was there and assessed the urgent needs in Iraqi, mostly pediatric, hospitals.

The pharmacist, Angela Bowman, is part of a five-member group belonging to an English charity, Medical Aid for Iraq, which plans to proceed to Iraq after a short stopover in Amman. The charity was formed at the conclusion of the Gulf war and, according to Reverend Randall Moll, a member of the group, it has a lot to thank to the London-based New Statesman, a weekly periodical, which helped form it.

According to Rev. Moll, the purpose of the charity is to provide medicine and equipment to hospitals in Iraq, especially children hospitals in Karbala and Basra.

"U.N. sanctions which result in the needless suffering and death of innocent children can have no moral justification in a humane society," said Rev. Moll. He is accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, a nurse, son, Duncan, a computer expert who will help provide logistic

assessments of the hospital needs and Elizabeth Gatliff, another nurse.

The reverend, an Anglican clergyman who says the charity is not a political organisation, stresses that ordinary English people (who helped raise the aid money) "have no argument" with the Iraqi people.

"We make no political judgement; we are ordinary English people who, like many others, feel appalled and distressed at the needless suffering of many ordinary Iraqi families like ours."

The group has travelled over land from the United Kingdom to Amman. The reason for the stopover, before leaving for Iraq, is that the main part of the medical supplies needed in Iraq was purchased in Amman with the help of the doctors from the Arab Emergency Health Committee, based in the Jordanian capital, who were "very helpful in negotiating with Amman drug companies to provide medicine at reasonable prices and help with the necessary documentation."

The group, which will take

\$25,000 worth of aid to Iraq, has only medicine and equipment "expressly asked for by the doctors in Iraq."

The equipment, mainly for pediatric use, but also for adult hospitals, includes IV cannula, for intra-venous feeding.

Rev. Moll said that the group "feels strongly" about three things. First, he reiterated the "unjustified" use of U.N. food and medicine sanctions against the Iraqis. Then, he praised the Jordanian doctors who assisted his group and are volunteering time and effort to help the needy. Finally, he said that the group was impressed by the way Jordanians were willing to help and meet the needs of refugees of all nationalities, "unlike the Europeans."

"With the help of our friends in Jordan, we can do something to relieve the sufferings of our fellow human beings following the Gulf war. But only when the hearts of the world's major powers have been softened by the cries of innocent Iraqi children, will the unfolding tragedy be averted," said the reverend.

## Minister reviews ties with S. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Monday received at the ministry the South Korean ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and South Korea and the prospects of launching promotion campaigns in Korea to acquaint the public with Jordan's touristic attractions.



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## Shamir's new tune

THERE is really nothing new in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's announcement Monday that Israel will not relinquish the Arab occupied territories come rain or sunshine. What is strange about it is that it was coined on the premise that Israeli territory is just too small for comfort and cannot therefore be yielded back to the Arabs. "We need the necessary minimum of space," Shamir was quoted as saying at a meeting with the visiting South African President F.W. de Klerk, "because Israel's measurements are small."

The Israeli prime minister would have been more correct in rationalising his country's design on Arab territories according to his own small perspective on the ongoing peace process. But this is besides the point. The latest rendition by the Israeli prime minister on the prospects for peace in the Middle East may have been intended to send chills across the Israeli-Arab Armistice lines and appease his own Likud constituency who have panicked lately at the prospects of having to trade land for peace. One has got to view Shamir's hard line posture on the peace process also against the background of his struggle for the continued leadership of the Likud bloc and for keeping the premiership. In this context the Israeli leader may be targeting Ariel Sharon who by some accounts at least is coveting Shamir's place. The Israeli establishment has hitherto been advancing biblical reasons for holding on to the West Bank including East Jerusalem. The shifting of emphasis to space rather than to the Old Testament could therefore also be seen as a prelude to the next stage of negotiations with the Arab side where the issue of security and secure borders can be expected to figure highly on Israel's agenda. This may explain in part also the timing of the Israeli Knesset's latest resolution calling the Syrian Golan Heights non-negotiable and demanding unabated colonisation of the strategic plateau. As territorial compromises appear to be the name of the game in the next round of Arab-Israeli talks, Shamir must be aiming to strengthen his bargaining position vis-a-vis the Arab territories with a view to weakening Arab insistence that their territories be handed back in toto within the framework of any permanent peace accords that could emerge from the peace process.

What all these ominous developments boil down to is that the Arab parties to the negotiating peace process are up against a formidable negotiating partner who is determined to call for more and more Arab compromises including territorial ones. The Arab rebuttal must be loud and clear: The Palestinians have already made many territorial compromises, first within the framework of the partition plan of 1947, and secondly when they also accepted U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Any additional compromises from the Arab camp would render any peace agreement a suspect and not worthy of the ink it is written in.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday called on the Arab and Muslim countries to unite and end the current blockade imposed on Iraq if the United States fails to impose the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions on Israel. At least, this can be done by the Arabs and Muslims whether they support or oppose the peace process under the U.N.-Soviet umbrella, the paper added. It is unreasonable to watch the Iraqis killed and the Palestinians continuing to suffer because of a double standard policy that is being exercised in the name of the United Nations and the international legitimacy, said the paper. The paper said that it took the world community 42 years before taking a small step towards resolving the Palestinian problem and nothing has been done yet to force the Israelis to comply with the U.N. resolutions. The Arabs and Muslims should seize the opportunity of the peace process and play their cards well so as to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions and guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, called the paper. It said that it is not true that the Arabs and Muslims do not hold any cards for negotiations and that it is enough to remind the Americans of their aggression on Iraq to force that country to respect the international legitimacy to ensure the success of their quest to achieve a just and durable peace that entails full withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab lands. The paper said that unless that happens, the Arabs and Muslims should not hesitate to end the blockade on the blockade on the Iraqi people who have been unjustly suffering in the name of the international legitimacy.

WHAT the Arabs understand is that President Bush's initiative, which was based on the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions, will be implemented in full; and therefore they expect the Bush administration to honour its promises and help reestablish a lasting peace in the Middle East, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Tuesday. The paper, however, drew attention to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement Monday in which he told the visiting South African president that the Jewish state was holding on to the occupied Arab territories and totally rejected the idea of exchanging land for peace with the Arab states. With this statement, said the paper, Shamir has openly declared his government's intentions and reaffirmed its hardened position which was earlier displayed at the Madrid conference. The paper said that the Israelis have "obviously" prepared their evil plans to sabotage the peace process and have prepared land mines to abort the negotiations over the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. If the Israelis do not see the changing world and are not aware of the new situations and the need to build a new world order, said the paper, it is the duty of the United States to see to it that Mr. Shamir and his government comply with the international legitimacy, carry out U.N. resolutions and end their occupation of Arab land.

## Economic Forum

# Treading on a minefield?

I STRONGLY feel these days that the economic policy of Jordan is treading in a minefield and I am really disheartened by the socio-economic ramifications that might follow. I do pray that our economic policy managers find their way safely through that land although I cannot see how.

The point is that these managers have started experimenting with more of the medicines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before clearing the awful stock of economic problems which have been straining every nerve of our society and economy, namely high costs of living, unemployment and inadequate growth rates. It is very well known that they are not embarking on the new measures out of their choice or liking. But this, unfortunately, is not a satisfactory consolation because it does not change the final outcome.

The new measures relating to lifting or reducing subsidies on certain consumer goods, imposing value added tax on some domestic products and cutting tariff rates on a variety of imports may make things worse although they could contribute to the improvement of the fiscal position. It looks as though the 1988 story of currency devaluation is about to be played all over again. In those days we were facing economic hardships and some of us thought that devaluation of the dinar will be the elixir for a very glorious economic life. We devalued our currency and the hardships ballooned into a crisis which shook the very foundations of our economy and society.

Contrary to advanced countries, developing countries lack the sophistication and weapons needed to impose economic discipline, especially in the field of prices. Thus in the case of currency devaluation, for example, prices climb up by more than the percentage of devaluation and thereby outweigh the competitive edge supposed to be given to domestic products. Likewise, the lifting or cutting of subsidies on certain consumer items will spark a price rise that will spill out into the whole economy and serve as a pretext for wholesalers and retailers of all kinds of goods and services to push up their prices. Once the inflation spiral starts, it will be most difficult to stop because the stage will have been set for it and its very movement needs time to work itself out.

Inflation will inevitably soar, the impact of the purported wage increase will be more than neutralised and we will end up in a worse shape. And it will be difficult in this case to talk about reducing the budget deficit in the longer run because the government itself is the biggest consumer and has now to spend more to acquire the same goods and services it used to buy.

The simultaneous imposition of consumer tax on domestic products and the reduction in customs duties on imported goods was a mistake, at least in the tactical sense, because it served a painful notice that the doctrine of free international trade and thereby the interests of great economic powers come first. No domestic manufacturer who has been deafened by the rhetoric on protecting national industries and encouraging investment will be

able to comprehend and later accept the notion that these measures are needed to avoid the distortion of world markets on which the free trade dogma is based. (And who blames him?)

The saddest consolation for domestic manufacturers is to tell them that the new measures will motivate them to improve their competitiveness. Such improvement does not happen overnight but takes years to be accomplished because it is firmly tied to the structural make-up of industries. The crucial question therefore is what and how the very survival of domestic enterprises is going to be guaranteed until that improvement materialises. Most probably some of them will not survive; this implies the destruction of both capital formation (past investments) and jobs. (Remember the unemployment problem?)

The reduction of tariff rates on imported products was wrong and, because it was coupled with more tax on domestic products, was most provocative. It, moreover, stimulates imports in a country whose economic crisis originated in high import levels. More imports mean lower growth rates as well. (Remember our inadequate growth rate?). The IMF people were not wise to demand or insist on it. But, anyhow, these people never claimed to be the best brains; they made a point and apparently we picked it up.

Again, the economic policy of Jordan is trading a minefield and needs utmost discretion and a lot of prayers and luck to walk safely out of it.

# What price forcible Kuwaiti liberation?

By M.S. Rajan

IT is good that Kuwait is free so soon. Many other states/people have had to wait for their freedom much longer (if not indefinitely). No doubt, Kuwaitis have had to pay a heavy price for their liberation, but, it seems, the rest of the world had to pay a much heavier price still!

No one is opposed, or could be opposed, to the independence of Kuwait (or any other state). It deserved it as much as any other. The question is only whether the manner of its liberation from Iraqi invasion/occupation is worth the terrible price paid by Kuwait and other nations of the world. A sovereign, independent, state for many years, a member of the United Nations, of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), of the Arab League, and many other international organisations and movements — Kuwait is entitled to that independence, and the right of self-defence too of that independence — but at what price to itself and many other states?

Was the quick liberation of Kuwait worth the price for the havoc caused by the war to Kuwait itself (apart from the havoc it has caused for Iraq)?

The terrible havoc caused to liberate Kuwait has almost very little to do with the Kuwait before Iraqi occupation, except for territory. Preliminary press reports have indicated the high price Kuwait and Kuwaitis paid for their liberation by the coalition forces — in men and materials. It will take some years, and a lot of money (estimated to be \$100 billions), for reconstructing the war-damaged Kuwait. Couldn't Kuwait have waited for peaceful liberation from Iraqi occupation — which, of course, would have taken some months, if not years? That Kuwait would become free again was I believe, never in question, because there was worldwide condemnation of Iraqi aggression/occupation of Kuwait, including by other Arab states — by the United Nations, by the NAM, by the Western and Eastern States (including the Soviet Union). Indeed, it is difficult to recall any other issue in history which received so unanimous backing.

That Kuwait and Kuwaitis

wanted quick liberation from Iraqi occupation, is perfectly understandable, and reasonable too, but could they not have foreseen the terrible consequences of liberation urgently and by a multinational force? Would they not have done better by waiting for peaceful liberation, which would have taken a little longer; that would have, on balance, been better for the country and the people. After all, in human affairs, decisions by nations or individuals are taken on the formula of balance of advantage and for achieving objectives over a period, not instantly and at a higher price than a nation or an individual is willing to pay? That Kuwait is able and willing to pay this price (because of its wealth) does not mean that all the Kuwaitis were/will be willing to endure the terrible harm suffering they had to go through.

**"The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its liberation by a multinational force has churned up the somewhat stable inter-state relations in the post-Cold War world. The ongoing détente and its worldwide beneficial impacts have nearly vanished."**

What, then, was the reason or justification for its quick and forcible liberation? It makes little sense — in terms of the terrible worldwide, long term, consequences of international community has to suffer, a part from what Kuwait and Kuwaitis are suffering.

Consequences to other nations

The war for the liberation of Kuwait has had far-reaching consequences to many other nations and for the system and trends in international relations. This, despite the tremendous and even unique solidarity shown by the world community with the cause of freedom of Kuwait and its people. These other nations have become innocent, and hapless, victims of Kuwait's insistent

desire for quick and forcible liberation from Iraqi occupation. The liberation might have achieved immense (and understandable) sentimental satisfaction for Kuwaitis, but would they care to assess the equally immense harm done to the rest of the world, including the solidarity of the Arabs and their causes?

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its liberation by a multinational force has churned up the somewhat stable inter-state relations in the post-cold war world. The ongoing détente and its worldwide beneficial impacts have nearly vanished. It has led to a sort of entente between the United States and the Soviet Union at the cost of upsetting many other large and/or smaller nations. The hoped for, incipient, multipolar world has been nearly destroyed. It has even resulted in paralysing a bipolar world, which, in retrospect, seems now far better than the "unipolar" world Kuwait liberation has ended up. This new "world order" is potentially destructive of the "sovereign equality" of members of the United Nations guaranteed by the world organisation. There would be hardly any "checks and balances" to the hegemony of the United States over the rest of the world community. The U.S.-led multilateral forces the Gulf have already demonstrated how the U.N. Security Council's limited mandate on the liberation of Kuwait is no constraint on their extension of the war to achieve their motivated desire of other, illegitimate, objectives, such as destruction of Iraq's political and economic infrastructure, and even the possible overthrow of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

Because of the disagreement of the Soviet Union with the United States on the extension by the latter of the limited U.N. mandate to seek wider U.S. national objectives in the Gulf area (and the U.S. rejection of Soviet peace initiative on the Gulf war too), there is now a powerful factor (though only potential for the time being) for the revival of the cold war between the two great powers. This is besides some other likely contributory causes for the revival of the cold war — the struggle of the three Baltic states for independence backed

by U.S. public opinion, the Soviet alarm at the demonstrative success (for the first time) of the use of new sophisticated arms by the United States, the likely U.S./Western domination of West Asia after the liberation of Kuwait and so on.

Is the liberation of Kuwait by force worth this terrible price for the world community?

The Kuwaiti liberation question has reactivated, only ostensibly though, the United Nations after the new détente, but, in fact, throttled it (especially the great power-dominated, Security Council). Indeed, the manner in which the United States railroaded the dozen resolutions in a short period on the liberation of Kuwait, not only frustrated the optimism of students of international relations/organisations about the revival (after a long slumber) of the activities of the world organisations as one of the beneficial consequences of the new détente, but, more seriously, it is likely to subvert and endanger the organisation by the bamboozling tactics of the United States in getting through the organisation resolutions which essentially promoted the unilateral interests of this lone super power and its allies/friends.

The harmful consequences of forcible liberation of Kuwait include the destruction of the cause of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the unlikely possibility, ever, of the establishment of the state of Palestine in the Israeli-occupied territories — a major objective of not only the Arab states, but, also many others. What is sad, this result has been, indirectly, brought about by the Arab states, themselves, notably Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the GCC states.

One other incidental result of the liberation of Kuwait is the enormous strengthening of Israel, economically and militarily, by its traditional supporter, the United States. The fact that Mr. Saddam Hussein, unconvincedly attempting to link the vacation of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait with the vacation by Israel of the occupied Arab territories, has diverted the world's attention from the Israeli exploitation of the Gulf war for its own political, military, aggran-

disement, to the delight of U.S. authorities, and to the detriment of all Arab nations and the PLO.

Because of Iraq's attempt to provoke Israel — by firing the Scud missiles — into involvement on the side of the multinational army, there was the danger of the Israeli use of the nuclear weapons in the Gulf war. Equally, because of the Iraqi threat of use of chemical (and biological too?) weapons against the multinational forces, there was a potential threat of reciprocal use of such weapons by the U.S./British forces. For a while, the Gulf area — and the rest of the world too — lived under the agonising threat of these horrible weapons, with awful consequences, to many other nations too. That these weapons were not, in fact, used should not lead us to ignore the terrible agony that the nations of the world went through, because of the Gulf war — all because of the liberation of Kuwait by force.

Was it worth it for Kuwait or other nations too, to have gone through this agony?

**"The eagerness of the United States and the United Kingdom to liberate Kuwait is possibly due to their neocolonial aspirations, in particular, the desire to ensure the subservience of the Gulf states to the former's political and economic interests, especially the supply, regularly and cheaply of oil."**

The liberation of Kuwait has also led to the likely domination of Arab nations, especially in the Gulf area, by the United States and its Western allies, sadly with the connivance and/or eagerness of some leading Arab states: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the other Gulf states. This is an extraordinary and post-World War II reversal of the de-colonisation of the world. For the United States (as President Bush himself has said candidly) it is the cheapest war! It has been largely

paid for by other nations (sadly, by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait). In effect, we see an extraordinary, new development (U.S. armed forces serving as mercenary forces!)

Already, U.S. official and intellectual sources are reportedly planning a new world order for the Gulf states, which might include a new military/political alliance — a rebash of the aborted Middle East Defence Organisation of the 1950s, the now-dismantled CENTO and such other contraptions of the 1950s and 1960s. And why not? Some Arab nations seem now to welcome such a development, even at the risk of compromising their independence!

And this possible development has other, far-reaching, consequences to the region, including West Asia and South Asia. The policy and movement of non-alignment in the area (some of those states are already straddling the alignment/non-alignment divide, like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan) would severely hurt the national interests of many non-aligned states of the area. The fact that the United States (and/or the United Kingdom) might not actually be members of such potential alliances ought not to mislead anyone — as it did not, in the case of the defunct CENTO. Some might also question the relevance of non-alignment in a presently "unipolar" world, completely ignoring the crucially important fact that non-alignment has always been against the hegemony of the super/great powers, whether they are one or more. And, once again (as in the 1950s) India would be hard pressed to maintain its policy of non-alignment, partly because (as in the 1950s) Pakistan is likely to participate (as in the case of the old CENTO) in the Western-sponsored military domination of West Asia.

Many nations (as India) which depend on petroleum (and its by-products) from the Gulf area have been severely affected (financially) by the limited supplies presently and for some years of these products — which in turn has had many incidental economic consequences to these nations. Some of them have been

(Continued on page 5)

# Masri should not throw in the towel

By Salameh Ne'matt

AMMAN — Here we go again. Another reshuffle, we hear, is in the offing, to "broaden the parliamentary base" of Prime Minister Taber Masri's government, which has been unusually plagued by so many deputies seeking a few Cabinet portfolios in yet another reshuffle.

The premier, we are told, has been conducting a series of "consultations" with parliamentary blocs, investing so much of his time to see who becomes minister and who doesn't, a matter which is hardly of priority to us spectators — trying to figure out where the beef is.

The latest reports say that Mr. Masri is fed up with the whole exercise and wants to throw in the towel rather than go through another laborious attempt to patch up a "broad-based" government that cannot be broad unless a majority is happy with the new set up. But, considering that the broadest government one can

perceive in such a parliamentary set up is more or less a 45 vote edge in the 80-member House, it is understandable why the premier is depressed and fed up.

But perhaps what is more depressing in the reshuffle syndrome plaguing us for the third time in less than five months, is what we, observers, cannot understand why the premier should bother with a broad-based government and a reshuffle which will not bring in the Muslim Brotherhood, the only solid political group that has any clear position on major policy matters that are not in line with those of the government.

Can anyone tell us where and how the Constitution Bloc, the Democratic Bloc and the National Bloc differ with the government on the major policies affecting the country? Isn't it ultimately, more or less, the pragmatic, liberal pro-peace government against the dogmatic, ideological anti-peace Brotherhood?

We honestly cannot understand why the premier feels obliged to bring in the Constitution Bloc, the Democratic Bloc and other groups whose difference mostly focus on form rather than substance and who are hardly ashamed of admitting that what they seek barely goes beyond ministerial posts. For it the purpose of the reshuffle is to show support for the government's role in the peace process, it is only the Brotherhood which is genuinely opposed to peace with Israel, and thus, we see no point in appeasing other groups who appear to be playing a spoiler role aimed at winning portfolios and no more. The Constitution Bloc has already expressed its support for the peace negotiations while the Democratic Bloc's representatives (JANDA) were and some are still part of the government which endorsed the peace process.

There is a fine line between playing politics for the sake of confidence votes and playing

honest for the sake of the people, and there is a limit to how far some of us expect our leaders to go to appease groups who have less than little to contribute to our political, economic and social recovery.

Mr. Masri, a man of great integrity, should not be playing for votes that will hardly change anything on the ground if we agreed that 35 deputies would continue to oppose this government and any other government under the present conditions. He need not do that for many reasons some of which are:

— Only one-third of our deputies are genuinely opposed to the peace process. These represent the Muslim Brotherhood. The others are jockeying for position with one foot in the government and the other seeking electoral benefits as though either one should be at the expense of the other.

— Public opinion polls, conducted by a private agency, indicate that support for the process exceeds 90 per cent in

Jordan and 87 per cent among Palestinians in the occupied territories.

— None of the other blocs who are not in the government has any alternative and viable political or economic programme acceptable to the people to offer.

— The premier should be able to get enough votes to survive a vote of confidence with the inclusion of Constitution Bloc representatives, and as such, there is no fear of him losing the confidence vote.

Furthermore, we are living a historic phase in our region. Logic suggests that this is not the time to engage in political gymnastics, settling of accounts or jockeying for position that does not strengthen our internal front. The government must act decisively and out of conviction rather than following a policy of appeasement for the sake of appeasement. The political calculation should be based on what is better for the country and not what is better for the govern-

ment. We can live without this or that government, but we cannot live without institutions that ensure continuity on a better course.

Right is its own defence, and if the government will fall for taking the right stand, then let it be. It may be easier said than done, but at least there should be a fight for what is right before anyone throws in the towel.

When the pro-Israeli lobby challenged U.S. President George Bush over the granting of loan guarantees to Israel, the president said he would go through with his decision to delay consideration of the loan guarantees even if he had no more than one supporting vote in Congress. He threatened to go with the issue to the people. If so many in the government are convinced that the majority of the people support the government and that Parliament is way too detached from public opinion, isn't it time to say let us go back to the people?



## What price Kuwait liberation?

(Continued from page 4)

compensated by the United States and/or the World Bank and its affiliates, but obviously inadequately.

Many South and Southeast Asian states have enormously suffered economically as a result of the Gulf war — from the rise in the prices of petrol and petroleum products, from the cost of assisted return passage of their respective nationals, from the stoppage of the remittances of their nationals, and finally, from the loss of export trade to the Gulf area. Only a few of these states were compensated in some ways. And many Western nations (the United States and the United Kingdom in particular) seem likely to profit most commercially by helping to reconstruct war-torn Kuwait (and possibly Iraq too). Even on the eve of the liberation of Kuwait a large number of Western commercial firms have reportedly signed the contracts in this respect.

Indeed, it is possibly true that the liberation of Kuwait, urgently and by force, by the multinational forces did not take place only because of the appeals from Kuwait or the deep attachment of the United States and other Western partners of the multinational forces for the freedom of Kuwait (for that matter, it is doubtful if all other Arab states were terribly keen either, on the freedom of Kuwait). The eagerness of the United States and the United Kingdom to liberate Kuwait is possibly due to their neocolonial aspirations, in particular, the desire to ensure the subservience of the Gulf states to the former's political and economic interests, especially the supply, regularly and cheaply of oil. Perhaps also, so far as the United States is concerned, it is very likely they desired to put down any Arab nations (Iraq in this case) which were likely to challenge Western allies, in the area, such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, and to punish the PLO and Palestinian population in the area who dared back Iraq. Taking advantage of the threat posed by Iraq to Israel (especially by the firing of Scud missiles) the United States managed to increase enormously U.S. military assistance to Israel.

In effect, by inviting Western military forces to liberate Kuwait, and defend Saudi Arabia, these Arab nations, supported by Egypt and Syria, brought back Western neocolonialism into the Gulf. These Arab nations have been loudly and loosely talking for years about so-called "Arab solutions" to their intra-Arab problems, but in the Kuwait case, they forgot about an "Arab solution" and unashamedly brought back to the area Western neo-colonial forces, which, furthermore, cannot be easily or quickly sent back. It will take a long time for the Arab nations of the Gulf to regain their full freedom of policy and action from the present trends; on the contrary, at least some of them are anxious to retain Western military backing for their undemocratic regimes. Also, in the process, they would give a go-by to their ostensible policy of non-alignment.

The question then is, whether the terribly high cost of liberation of Kuwait, so hastily and by the use of force essentially, from states external to the region, was worth the cost to Kuwait as well as many other states of the world. It does seem to a student of international relations that the

price was too high, and to be paid for many years, materially and otherwise too. This is a thousand pities because, apparently, neither Kuwait, nor other Arab states (notably Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria) cared to envisage these awful political/military consequences of their alleged or real desire to liberate Kuwait.

**The other side of the medal**

Of course, one can reasonably argue that there is no guarantee that Kuwait would have achieved its liberation by peaceful means, even if delayed by some months/years. In the prevalence of real politics in international relations (and despite the general observance by international law by nations, and the existence of the United Nations too), some international problems have remained unsolved for some years — e.g. Tibet, occupied Kashmir, Palestine, Cyprus. The world has the habit of forgetting the existence of these and other problems. Might this not have happened to Kuwait too, had it not been liberated by force and quickly?

Yes! this was possible. But then, there is no — there has never been — any absolute guarantee of the independence of states in the sovereign-national-state system, as it has been functioning for the last 350 years. A sort of law-of-the-jungle prevails in international relations (despite law of nations and the United Nations) and one is never certain of the independence/liberation of states.

This uncertainty is integral to the sovereign-national-state system, and is not peculiar to Kuwait, as it is not, to any other independent state. The problems referred to above are bound to be solved some time or the other, peacefully. And there is no guarantee that they would (or could) be solved in the manner Kuwait was liberated.

On the other hand, in the post-war years, nearly 100 states have achieved freedom from colonialism, the latest being Namibia, after a 4-decade struggle. Again, the basic issue is whether or not peaceful liberation, although delayed, is better than forced, instant liberation. Perhaps this is a peculiarly Indian view, because of the benefits India achieved from peaceful liberation of India after a sixty-year peaceful struggle of the Indian people against deeply entrenched British rule.

Regarding Kuwait, it is also arguable if it could ever have been liberated peacefully because of the obdurate determination of the President Saddam Hussein regime to keep it as its 19th province, at any cost and against world opinion.

On the other hand, it is equally arguable that President Saddam Hussein's regime, like all such regimes, is not immortal. But, then, there is no way of ensuring that that regime would (or would not) be succeeded by another with the same obduracy; also, the circumstances of Iraq might also change in leading to a change in Iraq's attitude to Kuwait. After all, such a dramatic change did occur in British ruling circles towards independence of India after the World War II. For instance, why should one assume that the Shiite majority (or the Kurdish minority) would tolerate for ever the present domination of Iraq by a Sunni minority?

In other words, one is back again to the issue raised in the beginning — whether Kuwait li-

beration, urgently and forcibly, was/was not in its own interest as well as in the interest of many other nations.

Perhaps (again, in an Indian perspective) if Kuwait had achieved its liberation peacefully against Iraqi domination, it would have secured Iraq's good neighbourliness — which it would not, presently and for the foreseeable future, because of the awful consequences of the Gulf war to Iraq. How long would liberated Kuwait depend upon the military clout of other nations for retaining its independence from Iraq? Obviously, Kuwait could never — small as it is — maintain a credible defence posture against the very much bigger and better-armed Iraq. Would it not, then, be better for Kuwait to have had peaceful liberation and friendly separation from Iraq — again, as in the case of India and the United Kingdom?

Because of its continuing military weakness, Kuwait is likely to be perennially indebted not only to the neighbouring Arab states, but also to the United States and the U.K. — which it needs to be repeated, are less motivated by any anxious desire for Kuwaiti independence than in having subservient oil-rich semi-colony under their thumb. In the long run, friendship of Iraq for Kuwait is a more credible defence of the latter's survival as an independent state than subservience to other states, Arab and non-Arab.

The Kuwait regime is promising democratic reforms in a system presently dominated by a single ruling family — and this promise is apparently inspired by external pressures. If and when these promises are fulfilled (or the external pressures are released), with a government run by Palestinians and/or Egyptians (because of the small Kuwaiti population) and with the help of a large non-Arab people — Indians, Pakistanis, Thais, Filipinos etc. — how long can Kuwait tolerate external/internal crutches, and still pretend to be sovereign, independent and equal in the community of nations? And, what is the credibility of such a regime, even if Kuwait regains its former wealth? What was the point of liberation by external forces and antagonising large, powerful, Iraq for ever? — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

## Syria

(Continued from page 1)

apartheid. "Perhaps Shamir will be the last racist on the globe who adheres to sick overtures, condemned by all peoples of the earth, such as occupation, expansion and settlement," the radio said. A senior Syrian official said reports that the United States may offer Washington as the compromise venue for the next stage of talks "poses problems for Syria."

The Israelis have urged that Arab-Israeli talks be alternated between the Jewish state and Arab countries. Most Arab states fear this could be interpreted as recognition of the Jewish state. They want the dialogue continued in Spain or some other neutral country.

The Syrian official, who insisted on anonymity, noted that Syria remains on the U.S. list of countries accused of supporting "terrorism."

## 'Peace train' be put on track

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Taher Masri during his visit here, said that the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, which only included personalities from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, excluding Jerusalem, would affect the substance of the actual negotiations with Israel.

"Israel insisted that the Palestinian representation to the peace conference be limited only to the West Bank and Gaza because its aim is to limit the substance of the negotiations to the destiny of only the Palestinians from the occupied territories, excluding Jerusalem," Mr. Hawatmeh stressed.

It was agreed in Madrid that the next round of Palestinian-Israeli bilateral negotiations would discuss the procedure of transferring authority to the Palestinians of the occupied territories. Although the Palestinian negotiators insist that self-government is a transitional phase toward complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, Israel has not indicated that it was willing to do so.

Palestinian delegates to the Madrid conference, who were in Amman recently on their way to the occupied territories, had told the Jordan Times that the opinion of the Syria-based DFLP, one of the largest factions in the PLO, had its weight among the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Hawatmeh said that his organisation did not oppose the peace process, but opposed the American conditions placed on the Palestinians to participate in the form that it did in Madrid.

"Jerusalem representatives and Palestinians in the diaspora must be included in the negotiations if there is to be negotiations on their national rights within international legitimacy," Mr. Hawatmeh stressed.

"Sixty per cent of the Palestinian people in the diaspora and the Palestinians from Jerusalem cannot be ignored and they have the right to be represented at the negotiating table," he added. "We must insist on a united delegation that would include all the Palestinian people everywhere, and if there is no positive response from Israel and the U.S., we should suspend the negotiations until this problem is solved through Arab, European and international help," Mr. Hawatmeh said, adding that the terms of reference should be the Security Council resolutions that recognise the Palestinians as a people who had rights to represent themselves through their chosen legitimate representative, the PLO.

Mr. Hawatmeh accused PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his "conservative" supporters of deviating from the decisions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Palestine Central Council (PCC) that all Palestinians must be represented at the peace conference. He said this "violation" had deepened the split among the PLO and the Palestinian people.

"We lost what we could have gained from the outset of (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker's shuttles to the region, because he (Mr. Baker) repeatedly stated that there would be no peace conference without the Palestinians," said Mr. Hawatmeh.

He added that it was not too late "to put the train on the right track because if we ride a train, coach that travels according to

the mood of the American driver, we should not be hostage to his mood because it could crash. We should participate in the movement of this train by putting it on the right track."

Using the metaphor of the train, Mr. Hawatmeh said that the Palestinian leadership had decided to participate according to the American conditions because they feared missing the train "even if it meant riding in the third class coach." He described this policy as "adventurous that could lead to destructive results."

"There is no need to fear missing the train after it passed its 'ninth station' in Madrid because no one will ask them to get off, and neither will we," Mr. Hawatmeh said. "But we call on them to return to our legitimate decisions (of the PNC and PCC) by putting the process on the right track in the next train stations. Only then will we be ready to be part of the negotiating team in this process."

The Palestinian leader considered Mr. Baker's eight peace shuttles to the region as eight stations and Madrid was the ninth.

Mr. Hawatmeh also said that combined efforts between the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators should insist on linking the issue of Israeli settlements to suspending the negotiations until the Jewish state actually stops them. Mr. Hawatmeh referred to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's public statements that the settlements would continue and that he did not intend to "give up one inch" of the territories.

"The settlements also pose a demographic and security threat to Jordan, where the East Bank would find itself forced with an influx from the West Bank, especially that there still exists a large Israeli school of thought that believes Jordan is Palestine," noted Mr. Hawatmeh.

He added that negotiating the status of Palestinian refugees in the multilateral talks rather than in the bilateral talks between the Israelis and Palestinians also posed a threat.

Mr. Hawatmeh said that to turn the issue of Palestinian refugees into a regional issue and not a Palestinian problem, with support of international resolutions, could mean absorbing Palestinians into the countries where they reside rather than to practise their right of return.

The Palestinian leader also called for Palestinian insistence on changing the agenda in the next round of bilateral negotiations of discussion on self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "through guarantees of linkage to stopping settlements and the right to self-determination."

"Only by reforming the delegation to include all Palestinians can we propose an agenda according to Security Council resolutions dealing with the land for peace formula, dismantling and stopping the settlements, self-determination and the right of refugees to return to their home," Mr. Hawatmeh stressed, insisting that the representation was linked to the substance that would be negotiated with the Israelis.

He said that holding an Arab summit that includes all members of the Arab League was now necessary and could help in reaching what he described as a common platform to "protect Palestinian, Jordanian and Arab interests."

## JANDA to stay out of cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

deputies met and decided eight against one not to participate in Mr. Masri's government. JANDA sources said that the Jordan Communist Party's representative, Deputy Issa Mdanat, was the only one in favour of JANDA's participation in the cabinet.

On Monday night JANDA concluded that it was the executive committee of the coalition should draw up policies rather than the deputies on their own.

Mr. Masri was expected to reshuffle his cabinet or resign at any time now as his attempts to secure a broad coalition have reached a deadlock.

JANDA officials explained the group does not oppose Mr. Masri himself but are disappointed in the cabinet's failure to completely repeal martial law and its acceptance of International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity measures.

Some trends in JANDA either oppose the peace talks with Israel or the basis upon which the Arab governments had taken part in the Madrid peace conference two weeks ago.

On Sunday Mr. Masri met with JANDA deputies who presented him with specific demands involving the immediate repeal of martial law, an end to any "excesses" by the security service, cancelling the IMF-inspired austerity measures and allowing access to the media by opposition groups.

Mr. Masri, according to JANDA officials, "was very positive." The prime minister reiterated commitment to all steps that will consolidate democracy and implied that JANDA can have a wider representation in his cabinet, they said.

Mr. Masri, according to the same sources, insisted to keep the ministers named by JANDA last June.

"We know that he is sincere. But the problem is that the cabinet does not seem to have enough authority or control," said one JANDA member.

The major organised groups in JANDA fear that if they take part in "a powerless cabinet," they will lose grassroots support, especially if living conditions drop as a result of recent austerity measures.

## Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

The Palestinians' vision of the interim period contrasts with Israeli blueprints more than a decade old.

During the failed Israeli-Egyptian Palestinian autonomy talks that followed the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty — based on the Camp David accords — Israel proposed Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip take charge of their daily lives, leaving overall control to the Israeli army.

"We stick to the Camp David agreements," an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said.

He said that plan did not envisage Palestinian residents controlling the land.

That does not mean, however, that JANDA groups will oppose any new cabinet, that Mr. Masri forms. "We might oppose certain policies but there is no intention to fight Mr. Masri," said a leader of one of the main groups of JANDA.

Leaders of JANDA have postponed a discussion of whether to vote in favour of reshuffled new cabinet when Parliament convenes on the first of December.

"It mainly depends on the programme he offers. Our decision not to take part does not mean withholding confidence," said one JANDA official.

JANDA sources said that the group might support a reshuffled cabinet if only to ensure that Mr. Masri is not replaced by another prime minister "who is not as committed to democracy."

Judging from contacts with JANDA officials, domestic policies appear to play a more crucial role in determining the alliance's position over the debate on the Arab-Israeli talks.

JANDA is divided on the peace talks, but it is united against government austerity measures and what it views as revived increasing intervention by the security apparatus in curbing political activities and freedom of expression.

Although three of its deputies signed the petition endorsed by 49 parliamentarians last month calling for the resignation of Mr. Masri, JANDA as a group did not endorse the move.

According to analysts, JANDA, in fact opposed the petition for three reasons: — Concern that "conservative elements" will take over the cabinet — thus presenting

potential curbs on political freedoms.

— The Palestine National Council (PNC), which was held in Algiers last September, authorised Palestinian involvement in the peace process. JANDA was expected to pull at its ministers if the PNC had blocked Palestinian participation. "It would have been very risky to support Jordan's participation in the conference without the Palestinians," one source said.

— JANDA's decision not to enter an alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood.

In addition to these reasons, analysts believe that support for Mr. Masri himself was and remains an important factor that influences if not necessarily determines JANDA's attitude.

But a combination of differences within the Palestinian ranks over the Madrid conference — that influenced the debate and the positions of some political groups here — the government austerity measures and what is viewed as curbs on political freedoms have triggered dissatisfaction among the major groups that constitute JANDA.

The confiscation of the Muslim Brotherhood's weekly Al Rabat, the censorship of the leftist Al Ahal weekly and the disruption of an anti-peace conference Islamist rally at the Professional Associations Complex are cited by many as indications of "regression" on political freedoms.

But critics of JANDA, including some leftists, argue that the alliance bears a great responsibility in failing to protect democratic freedoms by not coming out with a clearly defined political programme.

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**Jordan Times**



## Injuries hit Poland's chances against England

WARSAW (R) — Poland's prospects of beating England to qualify at their expense for the European Championship finals have been undermined by injuries to their first-choice goalkeeper and an experienced defender.

Goalkeeper Jozef Wandzik, who plays for Panathinaikos in Greece, and Glasgow Celtic defender Dariusz Wondolowski are both extremely doubtful with back injuries.

Poland, who denied England a place in the 1974 World Cup finals with a 1-1 draw at Wembley, have never scored against them in four games since, but coach Andrzej Strelan believes his strikers are more than capable of ending that dismal record in Poznan Wednesday.

"It will be all about scoring the first goal," Strelan said. "I am sure England will try to grip us by the throat from the very start but we know how to cope with that."

"I am sure that my boys will be as valiant as they were against Ireland," Strelan said. Poland held Ireland to 3-3 draw in October after coming back from 3-1 down in the last 15 minutes.

If Poland win they will need Turkey to deny Ireland victory in Istanbul to be certain of qualifying for the finals in Sweden.

Despite a series of injuries to key players which look like forcing England to give debut to two players, manager Graham Taylor expects to gain the point they need.

"It would be stupid just to play a defensive game," Taylor said. "It's important we can put a side out there that looks like they can score."

The last time England played in Poland they drew 0-0 to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals.

Win may not be enough for Irish

Ireland play Turkey Wednesday aware that their hopes of reaching the European Championship finals depend as much on England as themselves.

Ireland could go through on goal difference if they and the Poles win.

Although the two ties are being played at the same time, Ireland manager Jack Charlton, a former England international, will not be relaying any information about the Poznan game to his players.

"That might only confuse things. I certainly won't be ranting and raving on the line about how England are doing. I will just make sure we concentrate on the task of beating Turkey," he said.

The Turks have yet to score a goal in five group matches and have already switched their focus to the 1994 World Cup.

But Coach Sepp Piontek said his players intended to take the game to the Irish, who beat them 5-0 in October.

Ireland striker Niall Quinn flew home from Turkey Tuesday with an ankle injury, dealing a further blow to Charlton's injury-depleted team.

Romanians risk being left in the dark

Romanian and Swiss soccer fans could be left stranded in a darkened city after watching a crucial European Championship tie Wednesday.

UEFA, mindful that any of three countries could still qualify for the finals, ordered the Group

2 match between Romania and Switzerland in Bucharest to be played at the same time as Scotland's tie against San Marino.

That has meant three changes to the kick-off time, with UEFA finally settling on a 1900 GMT start.

Romanian Federation chief Mircea Sandu said the 2100 local time start was hard because of the country's chronic energy crisis which restricts night-time public transport and limits the electricity supply.

"It's the first time in our history that a match is being staged so late at night," Mr. Sandu said. "But we've taken every possible step to ensure the best conditions."

That should ensure that the floodlights stay on throughout the match.

Romanian trainer Mircea Radulescu said: "We hit snags in our final training because some foreign clubs where our best boys play didn't understand the importance of this match."

He said Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Ionut Lupescu did not return home until Monday. Nine of the squad, captained by Real Madrid midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, play abroad.

Switzerland led the group on 10 points, one ahead of Scotland. A draw in Bucharest should see Switzerland through to the finals but Romania, on seven points, could qualify if they won Wednesday and beat Bulgaria in their final match.

Sacchi delays naming team

Arrigo Sacchi kept fans guessing over his new-look Italian side on the eve of their European Soccer Championship Group 3 qualifier against Norway in Genoa.

Sacchi, who replaced World Cup coach Azeglio Vicini, is expected to encourage Italy to play the attractive, attacking football that carried his former AC Milan side to European Cup glory in 1989 and 1990.

Italy have only a mathematical chance of qualifying for the finals after a 2-1 defeat in Norway in June and Wednesday's match gives Sacchi the perfect opportunity to experiment.

He is expected to pick three AC Milan players, Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta, in a defence also including Internazionale's Riccardo Ferri and goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca of Italian champions Sampdoria.

From among the newcomers, striker Francesco Baiano of promoted Foggia and Napoli midfielder Gianfranco Zola could make their international debuts.

In five days with the squad at the Coverciano national training ground, Sacchi has drilled them on the non-Italian style he favours of covering, chasing and zonal defence.

Norway, already out of contention for a place in the finals in Sweden next summer, are giving their under-21 team, who have a good chance of qualifying for the 1992 Olympics, priority.

Austria step up security

Austrian soccer authorities clamped Vienna's city stadium under tight security ahead of Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia after UEFA classed it as a risk game.

## Martinez, Werdel advance in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — American Marianne Werdel provided all the excitement Monday at the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia when she came from behind to beat Larisa Savchenko of Latvia 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, (9-7).

The sixth-seeded Conchita Martinez, the only seed to play Monday, had little trouble beating Sweden's Catarina Lindquist 6-2, 6-4 to reach the second round.

The 53rd-ranked Werdel is a go-for-broke player who got lucky against Savchenko.

After evening the match at one-set all, the 44th-ranked Savchenko raced to a 5-2 lead in the third set. Despite serving 16 aces, the Latvian's lead proved deceiving.

As Savchenko became visibly uncomfortable, Werdel took advantage of her opportunity to send the final set into a tiebreaker.

"I didn't know what was happening at 5-3 (in the final set)," said Werdel. "Then I realized she was getting a little tight."

Werdel said: "She won a ton of aces. There's not really anything you can do, you just stand there praying she's not going to have a hot streak at the wrong time."

Werdel, who always plays at full speed, fell behind 6-2 in the tie breaker. She managed to save four match points in the tiebreaker to eventually take the match.

The eighth-ranked Martinez is looking for their fourth tournament title of the year in Philadelphia. The Spaniard's three winning efforts in 1991 were all on clay courts, her favourite surface.

But she feels prepared to play here on the indoor carpet.

"My preference is clay court, but I came here to Philly in time to practice," said Martinez. "I'm not as comfortable on supreme court, but I've been practicing here since Saturday. Today, I felt OK."

The 41st-ranked Lindquist started strong, breaking Martinez in the first game. But, the Swede couldn't hold onto her lead, losing her serve in the next game.

Martinez broke serve again in the fourth and eighth game to secure the set. Her set clinching point was a crafty forehand let-into at 30-40.

In a basically baseline affair, there were five breaks of serve in 10 games of the second set.

Martinez was serving for the match at 5-3. Despite saving two break points, Lindquist managed to blast a forehand cross-court shot at 30-40, to prevent Martinez from having an easy victory.

"I really didn't serve well then," said Martinez, of her ninth-game blunder. "I lost my serve, so I did my best to try the next game and it worked."

In the final game, the Spaniard broke serve at 30-40 on her first match point when Lindquist sailed a forehand cross-court wide.

## Agassi, Sampras looking forward to Davis Cup final

FRANKFURT (AP) — Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras are looking forward to the Davis Cup final. Jim Courier, the top-ranking American tennis player, is looking forward to a week of snorkeling and golf in Hawaii.

Courier has surged to No. 2 in the world, while Agassi has slipped to No. 8 and Sampras is No. 7.

But U.S. captain Tom Gorman has picked Agassi and Sampras to play the singles in the final against France Nov. 29-Dec. 1 in Lyon.

"I think that if I was picked I could easily see how I deserved to be picked," Courier said. "I've had a pretty good year."

"Am I disappointed that I wasn't picked? No, because I don't mind having an extra couple of weeks off, and it certainly isn't a bad thing at this stage of the year," Courier said.

"I am going to Hawaii next week for some snorkeling, play some golf, rest."

Courier, Agassi and Sampras are in Frankfurt for the ATP Tour World Championships, the season-ending \$2.25 million tournament of the top eight players in the world.

After Stefan Edberg, the No. 1 in the world, withdrew because of knee injury, Courier suddenly found himself the top seed in the event.

Agassi, the defending champion, almost didn't qualify. He has had a poor second half of the



Pete Sampras

season and chose to spend the last few weeks practicing at home in Las Vegas rather than playing the European tour circuit.

"I could have played the tournaments prior to here, but I felt I needed the time off, I felt burned out, and if I didn't make it it wouldn't have made the upset," Agassi said.

"Now that I'm here and the defending champion, I'm going to try my best against the top players in the world."

"It's important, but the Davis Cup is more important than anything else this year," Agassi said.

After winning the ATP title last year, Agassi had a disappointing season. He won two tournaments, but was eliminated in the first round of the U.S. Open and was a runner-up at the French Open for the second straight year.

It was a learning year for me and I know I have to be more consistent on court," he said.

"By playing here and the Davis Cup final, this will be a good way to finish the year strong," Agassi said.

Courier said he had known for about a month that he would not be picked for the Davis Cup team.

## Moscow to host auto races

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Union will hold its first internationally sanctioned auto races next summer on a track overlooking Moscow, racing officials announced Tuesday.

The Moscow Super Prix will include a Renault Formula Race and a series of Saloon Car Races. The Renault Class often features

young drivers who hope someday to move up to Formula 3000 or Formula 1.

The races will take place on a 2.7-kilometre track in the Lenin Hills overlooking the Soviet capital, Soviet and British officials said at a news conference at the Soviet embassy.

## Graf splits with coach

BRUEHL, Germany (Agencies) — Steffi Graf, the German world number two, has decided to split from her Czechoslovak coach Pavel Slozil after five years.

Graf said the two had agreed to part company because of "weariness on both sides."

Slozil will not accompany Graf to next week's Women's Masters Tennis Tournament in New York.

Graf, 22, said: "We have both got tired. I'm at a stage where I don't need constant supervision anymore. I want to be left alone a bit more."

Graf, who won 10 Grand Slam

Graf declined to say who will be her new coach.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that Graf and her father and manager, Peter, informed Slozil of their decision during a meeting Saturday.

"I'm out of it, definitely," Slozil told the newspaper from his home in Prague Monday. "I will get up early tomorrow and drive to Germany to be there with her for a press conference with the German media, but that's the end of it. It's a mutual decision that after five years together, we both need a change."

"She thanked me for the five years we had together. We agreed they had been great years, and we agreed to stay friends."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** By charming everyone today you will avoid some resentments that could otherwise become a factor with one with whom you would like to be clearly allied in the days ahead. Be sure that you gather all available information.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get off with some interesting companion who knows how to use his mind to gain the good will of those who have some ability to help you get your ambitions.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You can now see how you can make more money or at least so enhance the value of your property that you have a greater abundance for a long time to come.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A time to be sure you get out in the world of activity to see and discuss with a long time friend or older person what he will do to help you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to show you really do enjoy that intimate ally who is amusing and who brings you all kinds of interesting tidbits of information.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You like to be social and this is your day to get out in the social whirl to see, enjoy and be with those you regard as friends and who amuse you.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have to do of a worldly or vocational nature is

possible if you will go to a higher up and discuss with him in a tactful manner.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get off to that new site or with that recent new personality you met who appeals to you because of the ideas that are different from yours.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have agreed to do should be performed with exactness and precision now especially if a fellow associate is involved in this matter.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) By doing something that pleases and lightens the spirit of a partner you are now able to come to a much better agreement and to gain his approval.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have some ingenious plan or can play politics where your work is concerned that you are in a much better position to do your job more efficiently.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is one of those days when every spare moment can well be used to get in touch with those you like or with whom you have the need for contact due to their happy spirits.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Think out some course of action whereby you can get your family to go along with that plan to have more of this world's goods that appeal to you.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My boss found a computer to take my coffee breaks for me!"

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DENEY

SARBS

LURPPE

REDUSS

U.S. DEPT OF HHS

AN OLD FORM OF SOCIAL SECURITY THAT'S BEEN REVIVED LATELY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOOM LOUSY WATERY MOTHER

Answer: The more people he knows... THE MORE HE OWES

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

51 Fish baskets 52 Squabble 53 Ship to ship 54 Pairs 55 CA valley 56 Fine-grained silt 57 Darn it! 58 Portul

59 Philippine island 60 Pluto 61 Cheese coating 62 Genesis name 63 UN of go 64 Ocean motion 65 Reflection 66 11 Azures 67 12 Certified 68 13 Loch 69 21 Factions 70 Have being 71 27 Big birds 72 30 Shorn bird 73 31 Like a quidnunc 74 32 Swish words 75 33 Wash 76 37 House: Sp. 77 38 Musical syllable 78 39 Elevate 79 40 Sent to the minors 80 41 Tires: org. 81 42 Citrus fruit 82 43 Focillio part 83 44 Small 84 45 Usee makeup

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1 Long, detailed report

5 Small fish

10 "I do anything you..."

14 Of an epoch

15 Form of defense

16 Distribute

17 Fr. town

18 Having neck hair

19 B.A. word

20 "Twenty — Under the Sea"

23 Continents: abbr.

24 Whirl

25 Kismet: abbr.

26 Drove to the wall

28 Cord

32 DOE's

34 Blanc or Ot

36 Commotion

37 City near Le Havre

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21



## Financial Markets

in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency               | NEW YORK<br>CLOSE<br>Date 11/11/91 | TOKYO<br>CLOSE<br>Date 12/11/91 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.7690                             | 1.7718                          |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.6385                             | 1.6384                          |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.4470                             | 1.4498                          |
| French Franc           | 5.6040                             | 5.5913                          |
| Japanese Yen           | 130.09                             | 129.95                          |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2413                             | 1.2491                          |

Barren Currency Interest Rates

Date: 12/11/91

| Currency               | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 4.81  | 4.93   | 4.93   | 5.06    |
| Sterling Pound         | 10.25 | 10.06  | 10.00  | 10.12   |
| Deutsche Mark          | 8.93  | 9.25   | 9.25   | 9.25    |
| Swiss Franc            | 7.50  | 7.81   | 7.81   | 7.81    |
| French Franc           | 9.16  | 9.16   | 9.16   | 9.12    |
| Japanese Yen           | 6.25  | 6.12   | 5.93   | 5.65    |
| European Currency Unit | 9.43  | 9.68   | 9.75   | 9.75    |

Interbank bid rates for minutes ending U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals

Date: 12/11/91

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal  | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold  | 355.35 | 6.80  | Silver | 4.03   | .088  |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12/11/91

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.6830  | 0.6850  |
| Sterling Pound | 1.2093  | 1.2153  |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.6165  | 0.6186  |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.4710  | 0.4734  |
| French Franc   | 0.1219  | 0.1225  |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.5254  | 0.5280  |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.3697  | 0.3715  |
| Swedish Krona  | 0.1141  | 0.1147  |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0554  | 0.0557  |
| Belgian Franc  | 0.02021 | 0.02031 |

Other Currencies

Date: 12/11/91

| Currency       | Bid    | Offer  |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7820 | 1.7910 |
| Lebanese Lira  | 0.0773 | 0.0785 |
| Saudi Riyal    | 0.1818 | 0.1824 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | -      | -      |
| Qatari Riyal   | 0.1850 | 0.1860 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2150 |
| Omani Riyal    | 1.7480 | 1.7570 |
| UAE Dirham     | 0.1850 | 0.1860 |
| Greek Drachma  | 0.3672 | 0.3722 |
| Cypriot Pound  | 1.4750 | 1.4933 |

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Date: 12/11/91

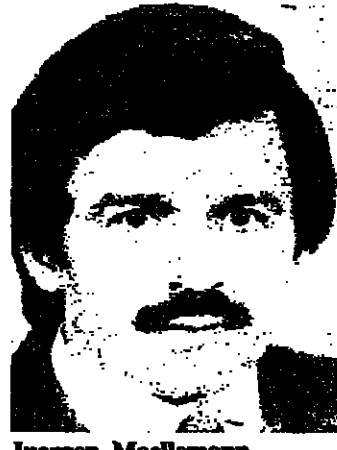
| Index            | 10/11/91 | Close | 11/11/91 | Close |
|------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| All-Share        | 124.30   |       | 124.50   |       |
| Banking Sector   | 104.84   |       | 105.24   |       |
| Insurance Sector | 125.81   |       | 125.91   |       |
| Industry Sector  | 153.69   |       | 153.60   |       |
| Services Sector  | 133.96   |       | 134.14   |       |

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

|                   |             |                  |  |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling      | 1.7745/55   | U.S. dollars     |  |
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.1310/15   | Canadian dollar  |  |
|                   | 1.6335/45   | Deutsche marks   |  |
|                   | 1.8415/25   | Dutch guilders   |  |
|                   | 1.4460/65   | Swiss francs     |  |
|                   | 33.66/70    | Belgian francs   |  |
|                   | 5.5750/5800 | French francs    |  |
|                   | 1230/1231   | Italian lire     |  |
|                   | 129.55/65   | Japanese yen     |  |
|                   | 5.9710/60   | Swedish crowns   |  |
|                   | 6.4080/4130 | Norwegian crowns |  |
|                   | 6.3410/60   | Danish crowns    |  |
| One ounce of gold | 355.00/50   | U.S. dollars     |  |

## Germans agree on coal production cuts



Juergen Moelleman

BONN (R) — German Economics Minister Juergen Moelleman and the country's energy industry Monday agreed to slash production of heavily subsidised hard coal by 20 million tonnes to 50 million by the year 2000.

The cuts will cost about 30,000 jobs out of the industry's current 130,000, the country's mining union estimated.

After five hours of talks with coal and electricity leaders and the mining union, Mr. Moelleman told a news conference: "we reached a consensus... which is a reasonable compromise."

After the talks, some 100 miners broke off a sit-in in a cathedral in the Western city of Aachen which they occupied Sunday to protest against the proposed coal production cuts.

Bonn sought the production and subsidy cuts to save money while it pays the huge costs of rebuilding a shattered economy in former East Germany, which merged with the west last year.

Germany's hard coal, selling at three times the level of world market prices, depends heavily on subsidies to guarantee it a share of the domestic market.

Mr. Moelleman said the agreement would reduce annual subsidies for hard coal from governments as well as electricity consumers by four billion marks (\$2.43 billion) from about 14 billion marks (\$8.50 billion).

"For us, the mining industry, it is a very difficult compromise," said Heinz Horn, management board chairman of Germany's largest coal producer, Ruhrkohle A.G. "But we will find a way to a new job for everybody."

A programme for production cuts foresees government financial support for restructuring the industry.

Hundreds of miners took to the street almost daily in the past month in North-Rhine Westphalia and Saar states, home of the country's hard coal industry.

The amount of domestic hard coal the energy industry must use for electricity generation every year will be cut to 35 million tonnes from a current 40.9 million by the year 2000.

Steel industry use of hard coal for crude steel production will be cut to 15 million tonnes from 18 million. The remaining production, for home heating, is not subsidised.

The agreement left open how to finance hard coal production for the electricity industry after 1995, when a contract requiring it to buy a fixed amount of domestic coal expires.

While the steel industry is directly subsidised by the federal and regional governments, the electricity industry passes on the higher costs for domestic coal to consumers.

The electricity industry has said it will use costly German hard coal after 1995 only if it is offered at world market prices.

"The current various financing mechanisms will look different after 1996 but... it is still to be discussed," Mr. Moelleman said.

## NCR merger brings big loss for ATT

NEW YORK (R) — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT) has said it lost \$1.8 billion in the third quarter, reflecting the cost of merging with computer maker NCR Corp.

But the world's biggest telephone company added that it would have outperformed its results for the same quarter a year ago if it had not been for the merger.

Revenues were \$11.04 billion, compared with \$10.91 billion in the third quarter of 1990.

The loss was equal to \$1.40 a share and compared with a profit of \$803 million, or 62 cents a share, a year ago.

In a report that for the first time combined results for both

ATT and NCR, whose merger was completed on Sept. 19, the company said it took charges of \$4.2 billion against earnings.

ATT had warned that it would take record charges to cover the cost of merging its computer operations with NCR and for other restructuring.

Without the charges, ATT said, its third-quarter results would have outperformed those of a year earlier "because of continuing growth in long distance and financial services."

For the first nine months of the year, ATT said it lost \$113 million or nine cents a share, compared with a profit of \$2.3 million, \$1.79 a share, a year earlier.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply higher on a technical rebound powered by heavy arbitrage buying and strong bond futures but lack of fresh factors kept trade thin. The Nikkei closed up 434.74 or 1.79 per cent at 24,667.73.

FRANKFURT — Shares jumped nearly 18 points in early trading but patchy buying saw a retreat from the day's highs. The Dax index finished 12.20 points up at 1,621.22.

ZURICH — Easier interest rates, a firmer Frankfurt Bourse and a higher Wall Street opening bolstered the market. The All-Share SPI index closed 6.9 points higher at 1,108.4.

PARIS — Anxieties about the strength of the economy kept fund managers out of the market. The CAC-40 index ended with the day with a gain of 0.89 points to close at 1,858.44.

LONDON — A rally helped by stronger than expected British Airways earnings ran out of steam when the market neared the top of a two-month trading range. The FTSE 100 index closed 20.6 points higher at 2,575.5.

NEW YORK — Blue Chips were steady in active late morning trade with strong bond prices supporting the market. The Dow was up four points at 3,046 at 1600 GMT.

## Japan, other finance centres hasten historic lending drop

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Western banks posted a record slowdown in business in the second quarter of this year, a survey of official statistics said Monday.

Japanese banks, which had paced the industry's expansion in the late 1980s, continued to lead the way in beating a retreat, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said.

Total international claims by Western banks fell an unprecedented \$164 billion in April through June, making for a \$219 billion contraction in the first six months of 1991, the latest BIS quarterly report said.

It was the first time this broad

measure of world banking showed a decline in two consecutive quarters, BIS said.

A slump in lending between banks that report to BIS caused most of the slump.

Yet even with those transactions factored out, April-June brought a historic first drop in the volume of net outstanding credits, BIS reported. The contraction was \$5 billion, after an expansion of \$60 billion in the first quarter of 1991.

The second-quarter slump in international banking was widespread, affecting most financial centres and banks in all major nations, the survey said.

But as in the first quarter, Japanese banks reported the largest decline as increasingly conservative policies took hold.

BIS analysts linked the retreat partly to tighter rules for Japanese banks' capital base and said it "appears to reflect a basic change in their strategies, away from balance-sheet growth towards asset quality."

Japan's banks accounted for some 55 per cent of the \$125.7 billion drop in cross-border inter-bank transactions, BIS said.

Following the Gulf war, oil-exporting Middle East countries drew down their Western accounts by \$5.4 billion in the second quarter,

the survey said. BIS analysts linked this to post-war reconstruction needs and weak oil prices.

Western banks further reduced their exposure in eastern Europe, cutting claims by \$3.1 billion.

In contrast to the banking chill, international securities markets remained buoyant in the second quarter, BIS said. New bond issues totalling \$82 billion were announced, down only slightly from \$91 billion in the first quarter.

BIS, a forum for Western central bankers, surveys banking in 17 industrial nations and several major offshore centres.

## Soviet foreign debt reaches \$81b

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's foreign debt has topped \$81 billion, far higher than previously reported, and most of it was contracted under Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership, a news agency said Monday.

The independent Interfax news agency said the figure was revealed Monday during a closed-door meeting of the committee formed after the failed August coup to run the country.

The West is increasingly concerned that the Soviet Union will not be able to meet its debt payments, and Western investors are holding back because of fears of Soviet insolvency.

The TASS news agency quoted Ivan Silayev, the head of the committee, as saying after the meeting that the country's hard currency situation was "very grave."

Mr. Silayev said the committee was not satisfied with the information it had on the debt and instructed experts to prepare a fuller report before its next meeting Nov. 13, TASS reported.

The chairman of Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, said Monday in Frankfurt that he was worried the Soviet Union may soon be unable to meet its foreign debt.

Last week, the Soviet foreign trade bank acknowledged that the country faced a shortfall of \$1.1 billion in hard currency earnings this month, but pledged to meet its debt obligations. State bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko told Monday's meeting that the Soviet Union's hard currency situation remained difficult.

Interfax said the Soviet debt stood at 47.2 billion so-called convertible roubles, which at the official exchange rate is more than \$81 billion.

That figure does not include up to 18 billion convertible roubles, or \$31 billion, that is owed to former East Bloc countries.

Interfax said that most of the Soviet Union's foreign debt was contracted in the last six years — the period since Mr. Gorbachev assumed power in 1985.

Mr. Gorbachev's predecessors were conservative borrowers and promptly paid their debts. Until very recently the Soviet Union has been considered a good credit risk.

Mr. Silayev said he did not exclude the possibility of selling part of the Soviet debt on the world market as one of the ways to solve the hard currency problem, TASS said.

The consequences of the Soviet Union's hard currency crunch can be felt throughout the economy and society. Because of the shortfall, factories cannot purchase needed Western parts for production. Some medicines and syringes that traditionally were purchased abroad can no longer be bought.

The Interfax report said that the Soviet Union was owed about 94 billion roubles by other countries, about half from its former socialist allies in eastern Europe and the other half from the developing world. The report said that it was impossible to determine how much this figure represented in dollars.

However, the Soviet foreign trade bank has said it believes that it could possibly collect half of that sum at best. Among the nations that owe money to the Soviet Union are Cuba, Angola, Mozambique, and Afghanistan — all of which have serious economic problems of their own.

The Soviet foreign debt has previously been estimated at \$65 billion to \$68 billion.

## Romania, Bulgaria get EC loans but warn of instability

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) approved emergency loans for Romania and Bulgaria Monday but both countries warned their reforms could be imperilled without more Western support.

EC finance ministers agreed to provide second tranches of balance of payments loans to Bulgaria and Romania, despite the failure of other wealthy countries to provide half of the promised \$1.8 billion.

But Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase told the Group of 24 (G-24) rich industrialised states, meeting separately in Brussels, that his country needed \$3 billion just to meet food and energy needs for the next six months.

The G-24 suspended its aid to Yugoslavia, which was not invited to Monday's talks. In a final statement, it expressed concern at continuing bloodshed and said it might later consider calling a special meeting to discuss the conflict there.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had urged such a meeting be called urgently and be open to all parties to the conflict which cooperated in trying to end the fighting.

The group agreed to consider without delay Romania's food aid requests, to increase food and humanitarian aid for Albania and to look at ways to meet Bulgaria's

electricity shortfall after part of a nuclear power station closed for safety reasons.

The industrialised countries agreed to call a G-24 working level meeting before the end of the year to discuss the needs of the three Baltic countries which have just been admitted to the G-24 process of aid for ex-communist states.

Mr. Nastase said Romanians were becoming disillusioned with reforms due to the absence of greater international backing and the West's insistence on tough conditions for granting aid.

"This in turn creates the environment for social unrest and turmoil, which is profitable only to right and left extremists," he said.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev said the reform process in his country might be undermined if the international community did not give strong support.

The EC decision to push ahead with loans to Bulgaria and Romania did not mean it no longer wanted other countries, especially the United States, to share more of the burden, said Henning Christophersen, EC commissioner for economic affairs.

"We hope that, by showing more flexibility, we'll encourage the United States" to provide more, he said.

Washington, citing budget con-

straints, has agreed to provide only \$10 million of the \$800 million in balance of payments support that Bulgaria needs this year.

It has not contributed so far to the \$1 billion for Romania because of doubts about Bucharest's political reforms.

Diplomatic sources said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger told G-24 colleagues that the Bush administration was now willing to contribute \$25 million over two years to Bucharest in balance of payments grants, but that congressional support was uncertain.

Promises of East European assistance coordinated by G-24 since the beginning of 1990 totalled \$32 billion. But European Commission calculations have shown that little more than one-fifth of it has been paid out.

The G-24 statement said Albania, Romania and Bulgaria were likely to need exceptional balance of payments aid next year, while the possible needs of the Baltic countries would be decided after they joined the International Monetary Fund.

External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen said the EC was sticking to the principle that its 12 members should meet no more than half the cost of G-24 aid, but the proportion could end up higher if other states did not meet commitments.

## Government tells Bangladeshis to get rid of smuggled stock

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh, preparing for a major crackdown on smuggling, has ordered traders to get rid of their stocks of contraband by the end of the month or face arrest.

"The government will launch a tough anti-smuggling drive from Dec. 1 to try to protect local industries and create employment," said a government statement.

All shops and warehouses must clear stocks of smuggled goods by Nov. 31 or their owners will be arrested, it added.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman has said smuggling is threatening to ruin the economy.

Police say smugglers have been using Bangladesh, which has an annual per capita income of \$170 and is one of the world's poorest countries, as a transit route, especially for gold and drugs.

Customs agents at Dhaka airport have seized 629 kilograms of gold worth about \$9 million in the past six years.

A third of that was confiscated in the past year alone, they told the Inquilab newspaper recently.

What hampers Bangladesh most is the inflow of consumer goods from old garments to electronic equipment.

"The entire country has been a fabulous market for contraband goods and law enforcing agents too have a hand in it," a senior government official said.

Some officials, however, say they doubt the anti-smuggling drive will be effective.

"How can you give smugglers a deadline to conceal or sell their stuff if you really want to make the crackdown effective?" one said. "I suspect it's going to be an eye-wash."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh expects to overcome any short-term food crisis thanks to a good rice harvest predicted for this winter, agriculture ministry officials said Tuesday.

Bangladesh was expected to produce nearly 18.3 million tonnes of foodgrains in the 1991/92 fiscal year (July-June), despite a devastating cyclone in the south and floods in the north, one official said.

"We certainly expect that fears of a food crisis following a series of natural calamities will be over soon with a satisfactory harvest of

the aman paddy," one official said.

Last year Bangladesh, a country of 110 million people, harvested a record 18.5 million tonnes of grain.

Officials said the April cyclone that killed more than 138,000 people on the coast and islands in the Bay of Bengal and floods sweeping the north in September damaged about 900,000 tonnes of the summer paddy.

The winter aman paddy was not affected by the disasters and would yield about nine million tonnes, nearly half the total annual harvest, the agriculture ministry official said.

Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, would still need to import nearly two million tonnes of grain to make up the shortfall, officials said.

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## Dubrovnik in 'mortal danger' as Yugoslav army resumes shelling

ZAGREB (R) — Yugoslav forces hit Dubrovnik with a fresh artillery bombardment Tuesday and Croatian radio said the Adriatic port was in "mortal danger".

It reported at least 22 people were killed in heavy shelling during the last two days which devastated the city and buildings in its historic old town.

Federal tanks and machinegunners began attacking at 6.30 a.m. (0530 GMT) and artillery started up two hours later.

"Dubrovnik is again in mortal danger," the radio said. Bread was running out after the main bakery was among buildings hit Monday.

About 50,000 people are trapped in the town which has been blockaded for more than 40 days.

European Community spokesman Ed Koestel said the EC hoped to be able to evacuate its observers from Dubrovnik during the day after talks with army commanders on a temporary ceasefire to allow a boat to enter the Harbour safely.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has warned West European mediators he fears "total war" in Croatia as a result of a sharp escalation of the conflict between arch-enemies Croatia and Serbia.

Croatian forces and the Serbian-led federal army duelled across the rebel republic Monday



Yugoslav army tanks take positions at the outskirts of the town of Vukovar.

and continued a grim hand-to-hand battle for the besieged town of Vukovar on Croatia's border with Serbia.

It was one of the worst days Croatia had suffered since its declaration of independence last June provoked an uprising by its 600,000-strong Serb minority.

Mr. Tudjman appealed to chief

EC mediator Lord Carrington for the dispatch of EC peacekeepers and urgent resumption of peace talks.

Zagreb Radio said he told Lord Carrington in a letter that he had ordered the unconditional end of a Croatian blockade of federal barracks on its territory which has angered the army.

## Philippines swamps Mrs. Marcos with fresh torrent of lawsuits

MANILA (R) — The Philippines brought a barrage of fresh criminal charges against Imelda Marcos and her children Tuesday, accusing them of shelling hundreds of millions of plundered dollars in Swiss, U.S. and British banks.

The government filed 17 criminal charges against Mrs. Marcos and a total of 42 against her three children in the first legal action against the former first lady since she returned last week from almost six years in exile in the United States.

It accused them of having about \$360 million in deposits in 10 banks in Switzerland, two banks in New York and a bank in London, violating Philippine regulations banning its nationals from opening foreign currency

deposits overseas.

Reputed to be one of the world's richest women Mrs. Marcos, 62, now faces a daunting set of 54 criminal cases and 33 civil suits for alleged tax fraud and corruption.

In theory, she could face a jail term of more than 200 years if convicted on all counts but the slow-moving justice system means she could delay a final verdict for many years through appeals, government lawyers said.

Politicians believe she hopes presidential elections next May will install someone sympathetic to the Marcos family, who could help ensure the cases are thrown out or buried.

Solicitor-General Francisco

Chavez said Mrs. Marcos and her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos, concealed their and their children's bank deposits in the names of foundations where the Marcoses were the beneficiaries.

"Both Ferdinand Marcos and Imelda clandestinely stashed away the country's wealth to Switzerland and hid the same under layers of foundations and other corporate entities to prevent its detection," the charge sheet said.

Meanwhile police said Tuesday former President Marcos's exiled military chief has been shifted to the southern city of Zamboanga after apparently slipping into the country from Malaysia, police said Tuesday.

## Baker arrives in Seoul

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in South Korea Tuesday for an economic conference held against a backdrop of trade disagreements and allegations that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

Mr. Baker was leading the U.S. delegation to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation ministerial meeting.

"Confrontation over ideologies and systems have by and large ended," South Korean President Roh Tae-woo said at a dinner he hosted for the conference participants. "A new world order based on economic capabilities is about to emerge."

Mr. Baker arrived in Seoul from Tokyo, where he held two days of talks with officials. Both Japan and South Korea are under pressure from the United States to relax bans on rice imports. Neither country has shown any inclination to do so.

Before he arrived, seven radical students were arrested for staging an anti-American protest in front of the hotel where Mr. Baker is staying. Police increased security around U.S. installations in Seoul and riot police and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled the hotel where Mr. Baker was staying.

A senior State Department official travelling with Mr. Baker told reporters that "all of us are going to have to make difficult decisions," if nations are to break down trade barriers, particularly on agricultural products.

Mr. Baker held private meetings Monday with senior Japanese ministers who also reportedly resisted pressure to lift bans on rice imports.

Mr. Baker, who is expected to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Seoul, also reiterated the U.S. position that "hostile confrontation will not help the people of China, nor will it serve our national interests."

The Oct. 25 document says Mr. Bush — who has been widely attacked in the United States for his policy of maintaining ties with Peking's hardliners — is determined to destroy China's Communist leadership.

The Bush administration hopes the Baker visit will bring concessions from China, particularly on human rights, before the 1992 presidential election campaign when Mr. Bush's opponents are expected to use his China policy as a weapon.

The document traces what it says have been more than 40 years of attempts by the United States to overthrow communism by "peaceful evolution." Peking's term for the alleged Western plot to steadily chip away at socialism until it collapses.

Entitled "The struggle between peaceful evolution and anti-peaceful evolution is class struggle in the world arena," the 16-page document, marked "secret" on the cover, stands in contrast to China's publicly stated policy of trying to improve relations with Washington.

Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which sponsored the telethon, said it was an "earthquake," said for ministers across the country to emphasize to their followers the "historical value of an ethical lifestyle." He called on celebrities and sports figures also to speak up for a "new national attitude towards safety."

The foundation will use some of the money for its two hospices

## Sihanouk vows democracy for Cambodia

PEKING (R) — Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, preparing a triumphant return to Phnom Penh more than 20 years after being toppled from power, vowed Tuesday to rebuild his homeland with democracy and free-market capitalism.

"I will do my best to implement genuine democracy for the Cambodian people," he told reporters at Peking airport, where he greeted Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen who will escort the former monarch home Thursday.

He said he would work to create a multi-party democracy with a free-market economic system. Cambodia would be neutral and open to the outside world for investment and tourism.

Prince Sihanouk, who has spent the last 13 years in exile, is the unanimous choice of rival Cambodian factions to become president until U.N.-supervised elections agreed on under a formal peace accord signed last month.

He and Mr. Hun Sen played pivotal roles in four years of negotiations to end the Cambodian civil war that has ravaged the country since 1978.

Returning home, Prince Sihanouk said, "is a very important and new period of my life. Certainly, it is the last part since I'm already very old. But I'm still in good health."

He said he would devote himself to national reconstruction and to maintaining peace.

Asked about the fears of many Cambodians over the return to Phnom Penh of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas under the U.N. peace plan, Prince Sihanouk said Cambodians would be able to pass their own verdict through the ballot box.

"To return to power or not, it depends on the people. Cambodians will accept them (the Khmer Rouge) as citizens of Cambodia," Prince Sihanouk said.

"Only the people of Cambodia... will have the right to condemn the Khmer Rouge, or not to condemn them, either by voting for them or not," he said.

Meanwhile fighting is beginning to die down in the Cambodian countryside three weeks after a peace treaty was signed in Paris, a Phnom Penh general said Tuesday.

"Here and there from time to time we have some fighting but it is getting down," General Priap Tan, political chief at the Phnom Penh Defence Ministry, told Reuters.

He said government forces were rigorously observing a ceasefire that was part of the Paris pact signed by the Vietnam-installed government and the three guerrilla factions which have been trying to overthrow it for 13 years.

Gen. Priap Tan said the main guerrilla force, the Khmer Rouge, was responsible for almost all the fighting still going on.

The small, non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front and fighters directly loyal to Prince Sihanouk were mostly quiet, the general said.

He said most fighting was now just skirmishes though artillery was still being heard in some remote Western areas.

A Reuters correspondent saw the results of such skirmishing last week when he visited a small village not far from Kampot City near Cambodia's southern coast.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sri Lankan rebel base destroyed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Soldiers destroyed a large Tamil rebel base in northern Sri Lanka and killed at least 15 guerrillas, military officials said Tuesday. One soldier was wounded in the operation, dubbed "Tiger hunt," said officials at the Joint Operations Command in Colombo. The base was located in the jungles of Mullaitivu district and was a satellite camp for a large complex in the area, the officials said. Soldiers recovered the bodies of 15 rebels after the attack and officials said they believe rebel casualties were higher. Soldiers also recovered a large quantity of explosives, uniforms and antipersonnel mines from the rebel camp, but gave no additional details.

### Plane crash in Brazil kills 17

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Brazilian domestic airliner plunged in flames into a public square in the city of Recife, killing at least 17 people, including two on the ground, a news agency reported. The Jornal Do Brasil agency said the Nordeste Airline plane crashed five minutes after takeoff from Recife's Guararapes Airport at around 7:45 p.m. local time (2245 GMT). All 15 people aboard the twin-engine banderanteiras craft were killed, including three crew members. Two people were killed on the ground, including one boy who was playing in the square when the plane crashed, the agency reported. The plane was heading to the city of Maceio, 240 kilometres south of Recife on Brazil's northeastern Atlantic coast, the report said.

### Indian police capture envoy's kidnapper

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police have captured one of the Sikh militants who kidnapped Romanian diplomat Liviu Radu last month, the Times of India said Tuesday. A government spokesman declined immediate comment on the report in the authoritative daily newspaper, which said Radu's release could be imminent after the militant's arrest in the heart of New Delhi last week. The report said the arrested man was among four Sikh militants of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) who seized Radu, 53, near the envoy's New Delhi home on Oct. 9. The arrested man had told police the kidnapping was an international conspiracy, the report said, quoting an unnamed official as saying: "The magnitude of the involvement of people both here and abroad is beyond imagination." Militants in Punjab, a rich agricultural state bordering Pakistan, are waging a decade-old campaign for a separate Sikh homeland to be called Khalistan, Land of the Pure. Police have reported some 5,000 political killings in Punjab this year.

### 2 die in Australian plane crash

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — An army plane crashed on takeoff Tuesday, killing two men and injuring eight others. The Pilatus Porter aircraft was on an exercise carrying two crew and eight passengers. There was no indication of the cause, and the army spokesman said all Pilatus Porters pending an investigation. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Pat Green said the aircraft crashed nose-first as it took off from Jaspers Brush, on the south coast of New South Wales state.

### EC ministers may clash on European union

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community foreign ministers shut themselves away for two days of talks on political union Tuesday and Wednesday with little hope of a deal but considerable chances of a clash. "There are going to be fireworks," predicted Jacques Delors, president of the EC's executive European Commission. The ministers will meet in the Dutch town of Noordwijk with less than a month left before an EC summit to agree new treaties on political union and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). On the eve of the talks, Belgium set the tone by accusing Britain of trying to trick its partners into lowering their sights. "Europe cannot become ensnared in the trap the British are setting for it," Belgian State Secretary for European Affairs Anne-Marie Lizin said in a statement. "We must not show the points on which we might give in," she added in an interview with Reuters.

### 2 Killed in Burmese train blast

MAE SOT, Thailand (R) — Guerrillas blew up a railway line in Eastern Burma at the weekend, derailling a train and killing two passengers, Burmese state television said. The television, monitored in this Thai border town Monday night, said the Moumei-Rangoon Railway line was blown up by mines Sunday, derailling two passenger coaches, killing two passengers and injuring five. "The mines were planted by (Karen National Union) insurgents, who have been responsible for disrupting regional peace," state television said. The Karen are one of a dozen ethnic minorities that have been fighting the central government for autonomy for 40 years.

### Coalition partners support Haughey

DUBLIN (R) — The Progressive Democrats, junior partners in Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey's coalition government, have given the embattled premier their wholehearted support after he decisively won a weekend confidence motion. The Progressive Democrats had feared they would be dragged down by the political instability in Mr. Haughey's Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party as dissidents battled to topple him. But the wily and determined Haughey won the weekend confidence vote by a 2-1 majority and now looks set to stay in power for several months until he decides to step down at a time of his own choosing. After reviewing the Fianna Fail weekend tumult that almost brought Mr. Haughey down, the Progressive Democrats said in a statement Thursday night: "We believe it is our national duty to remain in government now." Mr. Haughey, back at the helm but faced with bitter party divisions, now has to reshuffle his cabinet after two ministers were sacked for supporting the rebels. He is due to announce his new cabinet Wednesday.

## Johnson credited as AIDS telethon raises \$1m

Washington, Houston, Miami, St. Louis and other cities said they planned seminars, seminars and other works for their congregations to address AIDS.

The Rev. M. Andrew Robinson-Gaither, pastor of the Faith United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, said discussions of AIDS have posed problems for black preachers because it relates to the tricky issue of sexuality.

"I think some of us will be a little more open and less judgmental," said Rev. Robinson-Gaither, whose church has had an AIDS programme since 1987. "I think we will lose a whole generation of people from this disease if the church doesn't become the focal point in the community on this issue."

The inward reflection of Americans struggling to deal with the shock and hurt over Magic Johnson's infection with the AIDS virus will unite and heal the nation, Rev. Robinson said.

"Magic Johnson is making the transition from thrilling us to healing us," Rev. Robinson told

churchgoers Sunday. "His powerful body is the instrument of the healing. His prominence puts light and heat in a cold dark place."

Rev. Robinson called for a national AIDS summit next month that would include athletes, ministers and leaders of more than 50 cities. The summit would lay the groundwork for a safe-sex campaign Johnson has pledged to lead.

Rev. Robinson offered a moving sermon at Detroit's Hartford Memorial Baptist Church that brought the congregation to its feet with shouts of "yes" and "amen."

"I just wanted to share because we are all in search of the appropriate response to our agony," Robinson told about 350 people attending the sunrise service.

"Magic Johnson has gone from saving ball games to saving lives," Rev. Robinson said of the Lakers' star's decision to go public with his infection to educate others about the deadly disease.

## COLUMN

### Yeltsin honoured for fostering democracy

SYDNEY (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin of Russia was honoured Tuesday by the International Association of Political Consultants with the organisation's annual award for promoting democracy. The honour was bestowed as Yeltsin at a time he has employed authoritarian tactics in an attempt to prevent Chechen-Ingush, a southern autonomous region of Russia, from seceding. The association presented the award to the charge d'affaires at the Soviet embassy, Vadim Kouznetsov. "Who can forget the pictures of Boris Yeltsin atop a tank in Red Square urging the Russian people to rally behind him in defence of democracy and out those who were attempting to bring darkness back to Russia," association President John Seigle said of Yeltsin's role in defeating the August coup. The association was founded in 1968 by U.S. and European political consultants to foster the democratic election process.

### Naked man alleged to have set fires in Boston Symphony Hall

BOSTON (AP) — A firefighter captured a naked mental patient suspected of setting fires that caused \$100,000 damage to Boston's historic Symphony Hall. The 38-year-old man was captured early Monday when firefighters responded to an automatic alarm. Four small fires had been lit behind the stage of the auditorium and in the restrooms, said deputy fire Capt. Kevin MacCurtain. Police said the man lived in a mental health centre in Boston. He was taken to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. The historic building suffered about \$100,000 damage from fire, smoke and water, said District 5 Fire Chief Edmund Maiorana. All the flames were out within two hours, authorities said.

### Primitive tribe found in Irian Jaya

JAKARTA (R) — A previously unknown tribe that does not use tools and has no fire has been discovered in the remote Indonesian province of Irian Jaya by local villagers, the official Antara News Agency reported Tuesday. Local official Jusuf Adipatuh told the agency the Keu tribesmen wear only penis sheaths and wander through the hills living off whatever they can gather from wild plants. They probably originally lived on the coast but were chased into the hills by other tribes, an official of the government's Social Affairs Department said. Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of the huge island of New Guinea, has still not been completely explored and there are occasional reports of new tribes being sighted.

### Singapore taxi firm sends fat drivers to the gym

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore taxi company has launched a three-month slimming programme to help its drivers fight the flab. A spokeswoman for NTUC Comfort Cabs said that 13 men had signed up for the first course. Many more of the company's 6,000 drivers, who spend up to 12 hours a day behind the wheel, were expected to join up later. "We want them to know they should keep fit," she said.

### 600 cats on a hot tin roof anger passengers

PEKING (R) — Irrate passengers maddened by more than 600 yowling cats in sacks on the roof of their long-distance bus appealed in vain to police for help, according to China's Legal Daily newspaper. The paper said Tuesday that passengers on the Jiangsu provincial bus line in eastern China grew outraged as a businessman piled the roofrack with hemp bags stuffed with more than 600 live cats he was taking to market. Halfway through the ten-hour trip from Qidong to Nanjing the distraught travellers, sick of the cats' incessant howling, took advantage of a rest stop to ask police for help. "Despite the passengers' attempts to reveal the situation and the plaintive yowling of the cats, the police acted as if they didn't hear anything," the newspaper said. Cat meat is a popular dish in parts of China and cat fur is used in clothing.

## Indonesian troops fire on mourners in East Timor

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian troops opened fire Tuesday at a funeral procession of youths protesting against Jakarta's rule over East Timor and separatist rebels said up to 100 were killed or injured.

There were varying accounts of casualties in the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976 and some of an armed independence movement since then.

One diplomat in Jakarta said more than 20 people were killed in the East Timor capital of Dili. The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted a Roman Catholic priest there as saying troops shot dead more than 50 people and wounded dozens of others. Abilio Araujo, chief spokesman in Portugal of the Fretilin guerrilla group fighting Indonesian rule in East Timor, told Reuters more than 100 people were killed or injured.

Indonesia's army, in a statement 12 hours after the incident, said several protesters had been killed and others injured.

"Security officers tried to disperse them in persuasive ways but they put up resistance and attacked the officers," the statement said.

It said the deputy commander of the army battalion in Dili was a victim. It was not clear if he was killed.

"The situation is now under control. We call for the people to

keep calm and not to be easily persuaded by rumours and provocative actions," the statement said.

East Timor, at the eastern end of the vast Indonesian archipelago, was annexed by Jakarta shortly after Portugal quit the colony it had ruled for three centuries.

Jakarta's rule is not internationally recognised and international human rights organisations have frequently criticised alleged abuses there.

Diplomats estimate up to 200,000 East Timorese have died since it came under Indonesia's control. Portuguese radio quoted Ramos Horta, a member of the Timorese Separatist Movement, as saying he had news of the killings in a phone call from East Timor.

"I was woken up by a phone call... from a key resistance member who said in a very distressed voice: 'Please help us, save us. We are being massacred,'" Mr. Horta said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"According to this person, thousands of Timorese formed a religious procession travelling from the church to the cemetery... when they reached the cemetery the Indonesians opened fire on them with machineguns. Hundreds of bodies fell to the ground dead or injured," Horta said.